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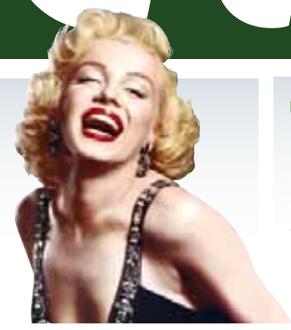
BEAUTY AND THE BELLE CURVE

OUR CULTURE'S TRANSIENT NOTION OF BEAUTY MEANS THERE ARE NO REAL ICONS FOR WOMEN TO EMULATE. IS THAT ENTIRELY A GOOD THING? PAGES 18 & 19



Fade to black?

Hundreds of millions of people will be switching off their lights on Saturday for Earth Hour, but is the mostly symbolic gesture just a waste of time? PAGE 10

100-car pileup injures scores

A code orange is issued at Alberta hospitals after a massive highway crash sends many drivers to hospital PAGE 14

Micheal Middelaer, the father of four-year-old Alexa, who was killed in a drunk-driving incident involving Carol Berner, says he found appeal arguments over Berner's sentence "repugnant." NEAL HALL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court rejects Berner's drunk driving appeal

2.5-year sentence. Carol Berner was convicted in 2010 of impaired driving causing death, two years after young Alexa was killed

NEAL HALL
The Canadian Press
exclusively for Metro

The drunk driver who killed four-year-old Alexa Middelaer in Delta, B.C., is finally going to prison, three years after she was convicted.

The B.C. Appeal Court dismissed a review of Carol Berner's 2.5-year sentence on Thursday.

Alexa's father, Michael Middelaer, said outside court Thursday he was "pleasantly surprised" by the appeal court's quick decision.

"There's nothing from this process that's going to make my family whole in any way, shape or form," he told reporters.

"This journey has taken almost five years, which is longer than my daughter was alive," Middelaer told reporters.

Since the 2008 accident that killed the girl and badly injured her aunt, Berner has spent just two weeks in jail.

Berner, 58, turned herself in to custody Thursday morning and has resumed serving her sentence after being on bail while her appeals were pending.

It was the second time in two days that Berner's appeals have been rejected.

A day earlier, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected Berner's appeal of her conviction in 2010.

Her lawyer, David Turnow, argued Thursday that an emotional video of the deceased child at a Christmas concert, which was shown at Berner's sentencing hearing as part of the victim-impact statement of Alexa's father, inflamed emotions and may have influenced the sentencing imposed by Surrey provincial court Judge Peder Gulbransen.

But the three-judge panel of the B.C. Appeal Court rejected those arguments, finding the sentence was not unfit, with written reasons to follow.

Berner was found guilty in 2010 of impaired driving causing death, impaired driving causing bodily harm and dangerous driving.

She killed Alexa Middelaer while she was feeding a horse at the side of the road in May 2008.

Crown prosecutor John Gordon, who argued Thursday that Berner's sentence was fit, said outside court that he believed it was "the end of the line" for Berner's appeals, although he said Berner could try to appeal Thursday's ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada and seek release on bail again, but would have to wait for the court's written reasons.

Mourning

"There's nothing from this process that's going to make my family whole in any way, shape or form."
Four-year-old Alexa's father, Michael Middelaer

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NEWS

Liberal voters from 2009 not sticking around for 2013: Poll

With fewer than eight weeks left until the provincial election, a new poll suggests the Liberals are bleeding support and perceptions of Christy Clark are worsening.

The Angus Reid poll released Thursday suggests only 58 per cent of Liberal voters in 2009 will vote for the government again — a 10-point drop from February — while 85 per cent of those who voted NDP in 2009 plan to do so again.

According to the poll, the NDP is the voting intention of 48 per cent of British Columbians while 28 per cent intend to vote Liberal.

The Greens and Conservatives were tied at 11 per cent.

On the leadership front, 31 per cent of respondents said Adrian Dix would make the best premier, while 16 per cent chose Christy Clark — a five-point drop since February.

Respondents said Dix was the best candidate to provide leadership on crime, health care, the economy, education and federal–provincial relations, and picked Green Party Leader Jane Sterk as best for the environment.

Clark was not chosen as the best leader on any major issue.

The results found that there is no major region where the Liberals have support from at least a third of decided voters. Their best numbers are in the Interior, where they were chosen by 31 per cent of respondents and the NDP was chosen by 39 per cent.

The poll surveyed 809 randomly selected British Columbians, and was weighted to reflect current demographic information such as age, gender and region. LIAM BRITTEN/METRO

Josh Paterson, executive director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, alleges the Canada Border Services Agency violated the Privacy Act by letting camera crews film a raid for a for-profit TV series. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

‘Law enforcement is not an action movie’

Border security. Rights group files privacy complaint against CBSA TV series

EMILY JACKSON
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As border-security officers questioned the migrant worker about his name and immigration status during a raid of a Vancouver construction site last week, he asked why a microphone and camera were pointed at him.

“Not to worry,” the officer said, according to a complaint filed Thursday to the federal privacy commissioner. “It’s for a reality TV show.”

Oscar Mata Duran has already been deported to Mexico, but the B.C. Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) filed a complaint on his behalf alleging the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) violated the Privacy Act by letting a for-profit camera crew film him and others in such a vulnerable situation.

“Law enforcement is not an action movie and it’s not a reality TV series,” BCCLA executive director Josh Paterson said at a news conference Thursday condemning the CBSA’s participation in the TV series Border Security.

But it was just a “coincidence” that Mata Duran and six other allegedly undocumented workers were on the job when 12 officers raided the site searching for one previously deported criminal, according to a statement from production company Force Four Entertainment.

While Mata Duran ultimately signed the producer’s consent form, he only did so because he was “confused and afraid about what would happen to him,” according to the complaint.

More than 20,000 people have signed a petition calling for the show’s cancellation.

The office of the privacy commissioner has already contacted the CBSA to learn more about the program, spokeswoman Valerie Lawton said Thursday, and it will investigate the BCCLA complaint. While the office generally makes recommendations, it can’t order departments to take action.

The CBSA did not respond to repeated questions regarding how much taxpayer money it spends to act as the show’s “de facto” executive producer, nor did it comment on the BCCLA complaint.

Federal Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews defended it in Parliament this week, stating “illegal” immigrants cost the economy millions.

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Up to a quarter of Coal Harbour condos sitting empty or owned by foreigners

Data. UBC professor says owners of some of the empty units may have been away on extended business trips, or using them as secondary homes

Up to a quarter of the condos in Coal Harbour are sitting empty or are occupied by non-residents — more than four times the national average — and the pattern extends to other parts of the downtown core, according to new data released this week.

Andy Yan, an adjunct planning professor at UBC, looked at the 2011 census to see how many units had no one in them to answer the government's mandatory survey, even after officials followed up with phone calls and visits.

To create a proxy measure of how much of a role foreign investment plays in Vancouver's housing market, he then added those figures together with the number of units that were occupied by someone without Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status. He found that on average, 15 per cent, or 5,710 units, in Vancouver's downtown core sat empty or occupied by a foreigner in 2011.

"I agree with some of my economist friends that some of this works for Vancouverites because it brings in money that we may not otherwise have to put up these buildings," he said.

"But then the issue is, what happens when it begins to crowd out those who are living here or want to kind of grow here?"

Out of 25 Canadian cities, Vancouver ranked the third-highest in what he termed "non-resident occupancy," behind only Windsor, Ont. and London, Ont., cities whose economies are struggling. His previous research shows 50 to 60 per cent of Vancouver's housing stock is investor-owned, as opposed to owner-occupied.

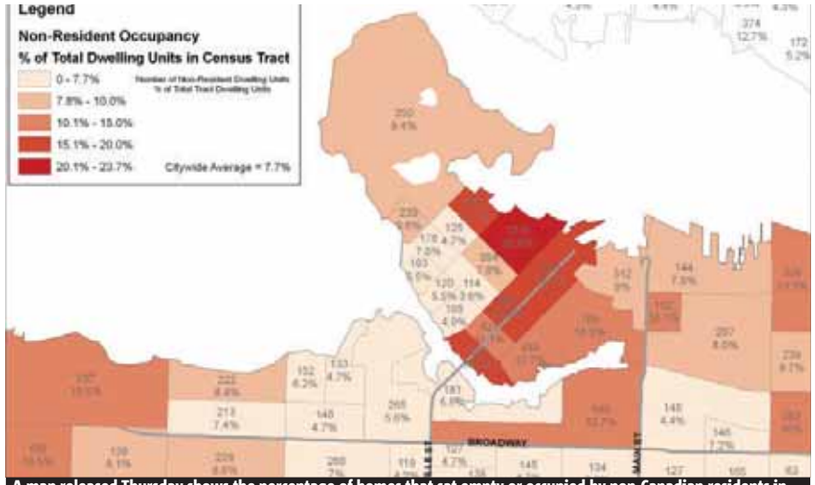
Yan stressed that the owners of some of the empty units may have been away on extended business trips, or using them as secondary homes. But he said that if condos are being left empty year-round, it's safe to say they are being bought for speculative purposes.

Vancouver Coun. Geoff Meggs called Yan's finding "very provocative," and said more might need to be done to clamp down on speculative investments in Vancouver's limited housing stock. He suggested strata council rules that restrict rentals might also be part of the problem.

"I don't have the slightest worry about super high-end units being slow to sell or sitting empty," Meggs said, noting many condos are still empty in the Olympic village because they will lose value if they are rented out rather than sold brand new.

"I want average people to be able to get a decent home, and if these mid-range condominiums are being held up by inappropriate speculation or restrictive strata council rules, those are solutions I'd like to look at."

KATE WEBB/METRO



A map released Thursday shows the percentage of homes that sat empty or occupied by non-Canadian residents in 2011. STATISTICS CANADA

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Gabriola. Police divers recover body from car that plunged off docked ferry

The body of a 32-year-old woman has been pulled from the water where a car sank after plunging off a BC Ferry docked at Gabriola Island on Wednesday.

The RCMP say the woman was from Gabriola, that her next of kin have been notified and that they've asked for her name to be withheld.

Divers recovered the body from about 30 metres of water.

The car crashed through a barrier at the terminal early Wednesday morning, jumped a loading ramp onto an empty ferry and raced across the deck before plunging into the water.

No one was else was hurt, and the ferry sustained only minor damage. Police say the investigation has now been turned over to the coroner's office. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Near Ucluelet. Area shut down after arsenic, cobalt, selenium are discovered

The B.C. government has shut down a marina and campground near Ucluelet on the west coast of Vancouver Island after they discovered high levels of arsenic, selenium and cobalt.

Health officials say they are most concerned about arsenic, which can be poisonous in small doses.

Dr. Paul Hasselback, the medical health officer for central Vancouver Island, said exposure would come from drinking or eating arsenic but adds that few are at risk of drinking the salt water or eating contaminated dirt. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Property plundered from Johnsons Landing reappears

Property stolen from the Johnsons Landing homes affected by a deadly landslide last year was recovered by RCMP. CONTRIBUTED

Kaslo RCMP. Thieves seem to have left items stolen from the homes of area hit by a landslide neatly piled at the side of Highway 31

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

A lawn tractor, a snowplow and various tools — all plundered from homes devastated by the deadly landslide in Johnsons Landing last summer — sat piled neatly at the side of the highway the day after RCMP asked the public for help finding the property.

A sharp-eyed local spotted the carefully placed property about 100 metres east of Highway 31, approximately 18 kilometres away from the break-and-enter site where three bodies were found after the landslide, according to Kaslo RCMP.

RCMP thanked the citizen for being the "eyes and ears" for the police.

"Perhaps it was a case of a guilty conscience at work," Cpl. Shaun Begg said in a statement regarding the thieves' apparent decision to dispose of the goods.

"In any event, it is nice to be able to return at least some of the property to the victimized property owners."

Sometime last week, thieves stole property from three homes and a garage that were affected by the landslide, which killed four people in the small, interior B.C. community.

No arrests have been made and the investigation continues. Anyone with information is asked to contact Kaslo RCMP at 250-353-2225 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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'Anarchist' strikes again

Stolen sign.
Save-On Meats targeted this time

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

An apparent anarchist campaign of petty thefts and vandalism is not over: Save-On Meats is the latest Vancouver business to be targeted after it had its sign stolen this week.

"The act was meant to let the gentrifiers know that they have entered an area with a long history of class warfare," reads a blog post on the website anarchistnews.org.

It's the same website on which someone claimed responsibility last week for repeatedly smashing the windows of a Commercial Drive pizzeria, causing thousands of dollars in damage, as well as several City of Vancouver vehicles.

"This small action is one facet among many. It is a symbol of the slow and deliberate disassembly of the capitalist machine."

Save-On Meats owner Mark Brand said, "It's easy to sling insults and threats, but those are just hollow."

"You've stolen from us, and that's really not OK. The people from our community who eat at that sandwich window every day, using tokens or not ... they're mad," he said. "And so I'd be amazed if you saw any sort of daylight activity against us, because the neighbourhood eats there all day and they wouldn't stand for it."

Police have contacted Brand, but he has yet to contact them back to file a report because he's not sure whether he wants to get them involved.

To start, he opted to put a call out on Twitter, asking for the person to return the sign, no questions asked.

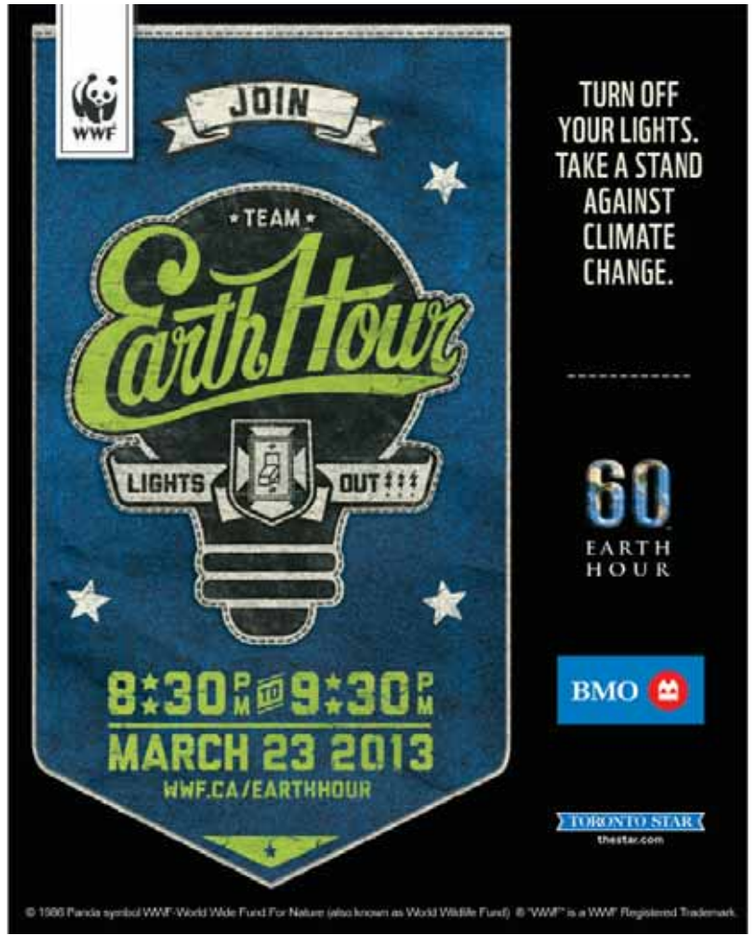
"If it gets returned, I'll be super happy," he said.

VPD spokesman Randy Fincham said police are keeping an eye on businesses in the Downtown Eastside that have been named on the blog.

Manifesto

"The ghetto revolt will not stop until every capitalist enterprise has ceased to destroy daily life."

Excerpt from a post on anarchistnews.org



Some poll respondents are even driving to the U.S. to take flights to other Canadian cities. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Locals driving across the border for flights

New poll. Figures show that price is prime motivation

Cross-border shopping by Canadians is nothing new, but the hunt for a good bargain is no longer confined to outlet malls.

A poll from Insights West released Thursday suggested that of all Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley residents who said they had taken a flight in the past two years, half had taken at least one from a U.S. airport.

Some are driving to the U.S. to fly to other Canadian cities.

Most of the bargain seekers said price was an important reason for crossing the border to take flights.

LIAM BRITTEN/METRO

Fraser River

Poor salmon run could bring cuts

A federal official says this year's Fraser River sockeye salmon run may be lower than expected.

Les Jantz, a resources manager with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, says preliminary projections put returns somewhere between 1.6 and 15.6 million fish.

He says the working number the department is using is just under five million, and if that's the case there may be cuts in the commercial fishery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Studies continue to blame miners for poisoning river

Yet another study of toxic chemicals in the Elk River near Fernie warns selenium levels in the waterway are dangerously high, echoing decades of research that identifies open-pit coal mines in the area as the culprits.

The latest study, conducted by the University of Montana, measured concentrations seven to 10 times the natural level of selenium downstream from coal mines in the region.

Co-author Dr. Richard Hauer said they also compared the numbers with the Flathead River to the east, where selenium levels are almost non-existent.

Despite many reports dating back to 1995, little has been done to bring levels into line with the province's recommendations.

Cause and effect

"It's only below the mining where the problems begin. And the problems are severe."

Dr. Richard Hauer, who co-authored the latest report

Researchers studying fish in Lake Koocanusa — downstream from the Elk Valley mines — found dangerous levels of selenium in all 40 fish species they studied, Hauer said.

Sarah Cox of the Sierra Club of BC said she is concerned that five new or expanded coal mine operations proposed in the Elk Valley will add to the selenium pollution.

TYLER HARBOTTLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS, EXCLUSIVELY FOR METRO

Industry response

Teck Coal Limited, the world's second-largest exporter of metallurgic coal, operates five mines in the Elk River Valley.

- **Plans.** Marcia Smith, senior vice-president of sustainability at Teck, said the company has studied the problem for years and is "spending upwards of $600 million to put water-treatment facilities in place."
- **Efficacy.** But the company's plans to "stabilize and reverse" the selenium concentrations in the river still fall short of the levels recommended by the B.C. government.

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The big switch-off

For good? Hundreds of millions participate in Earth Hour, but can 60 minutes really make a difference?

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

The Acropolis in Athens is shown before and during Earth Hour on March 31, 2012. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Be prepared — at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday the lights turn off. From Tokyo to Toronto, Palestine to Papua New Guinea, hundreds of millions of people in more than 150 countries and territories will participate in the world's largest co-ordinated action on climate change, led by the World Wildlife Fund.

Organizers state this is a "symbolic" action, and there will be no measurement of its impact. But campaigners believe it's important to challenge our relationship with technology.

"People need to see collective action to take the issue seriously," says Peter Madden, CEO of the international group Forum for the Future. "Changes can be attractive if they are re-enforced socially."

With technology increasingly embedded in everyday life, it's time to make smarter choices, says Madden. "The most exciting innovations are making energy use visible. Phone apps can give you data, heaters can learn when they are needed."

The Beyond Zero Emissions group estimates that energy demand could be halved if people replaced their appliances with more efficient models. Patio heaters remain among the worst offenders, and campaigners are aiming for 100 per cent LED lighting.

For hardliners, living off-grid has become increasingly possible. "There is cheaper and more reliable energy available such as ground-source and mini turbines — a great alternative to the rising cost of traditional fuel," says Madden.

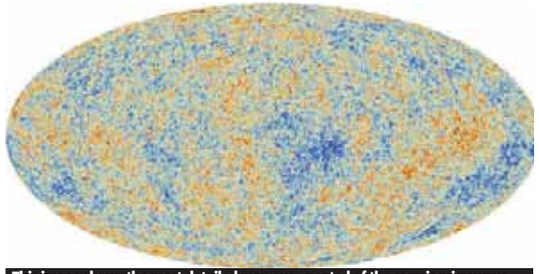
However, Earth Hour's "global switch-off" concept has also been criticized, and participation and online involvement have dropped off this year.

13.81B years old. Universe far older than we thought

New results from looking at the split-second after the Big Bang indicate the universe is 80 million years older than previously thought and provide ancient evidence supporting core concepts about the cosmos — how it began, what it's made of and where it's going.

The findings released Thursday bolster a key theory called inflation, which says the universe burst from subatomic size to its now-observable expanse in a fraction of a second. The new observations from the European Space Agency's $900-million US Planck space probe appear to reinforce some predictions made decades ago solely on the basis of mathematical concepts.

"We've uncovered a fundamental truth of the universe," said George Efstathiou, director of the Kavli Institute for Cosmology at the University of Cambridge who announced the satellite result in Paris. "There's less stuff that we don't understand by a tiny amount." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This image shows the most detailed map ever created of the cosmic microwave background, acquired by the European Space Agency's Planck space telescope. ESA-PLANCK COLLABORATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Soul 4u shown△

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bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $6,368 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,772. **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $20,967.** Offer based on 2013 Soul 2.0L 2u MT.

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Offer(s) available on select new 2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by April 1, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. All offers are subject to change without notice. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,650, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies) and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Rio5 LX + AT (RIO53D) with a selling price of $16,512, financed at 0% APR for 36 months. 76 bi-weekly payments equal $225 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. ***Don't Pay For 90 Days" offer (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on all new 2012/2013 models. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. **"3 Payments On Us" offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease any new 2013 Sorento from a participating dealer between March 1 - April 1, 2013. Eligible lease and purchase finance customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $550 per month. Lease and finance purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $1,650 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. Offer ends April 1, 2013. Offer cannot be combined with "Don't Pay For 90 Days" promotion. ^Bi-weekly finance payment O.A.C. for new 2013 Sorento LX AT FWD (SR75D3)/2013 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551D)/2013 Soul 2.0L 2u MT (SO55B0) based on a selling price of $20,960/$23,350/$20,967 is $156/$136/$126 with an APR of 1.49%/1.99%/2.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,009/$6,906/$6,368 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. †Sorento LX 2.2CRDI vs. CR-V LX 2.0DTL, with second-row seats folded. ‡60 months/100,000kms vs. 36 months/60,000kms. ‡Sorento LX 191hp vs. RAV4 LE 176hp. ¶Sportage LX 740L vs. Compass Sport/North 643L. ¶Sportage LX 176hp vs. CX-5 GS 155hp. ‡60 months/100,000km vs. 36 months/60,000km. ‡60 months/100,000km vs. 36 months/60,000km. ¶Soul 2.0U 164hp vs. Scion xB 158hp. ¶Soul 1.6L 2,881L vs. Cube S 2,786L. ¶Loan savings for 2013 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551D) is $750 and is available on purchase financing only O.A.C. Loan savings vary by model and are deducted from the selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. ^^Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD 7-seater (SR75D3)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX Navigation (SP59D2)/2013 Soul 2.0L 4u Luxury AT (SO75K0) is $43,045/$38,145/$27,345 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650 and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). Licence, insurance, applicable taxes, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies), variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Soul 2.0L MPI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2686. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

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Commons

MPs motion to condemn sex selection abortion ruled non-votable

A Conservative MP's bid to have Parliament condemn the practice of sex-selective abortion has been short-circuited.

A House of Commons sub-committee that oversees private members' business has deemed Mark Warawa's motion to be non-votable. That means the non-binding motion will not be debated, much less voted upon, sparing Stephen Harper from another embarrassing split in Conservative ranks over an issue the PM has promised his government won't re-open. Warawa is vowing to appeal what he calls the sub-committee's "shocking and undemocratic decision." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egypt

Women's group critical of Muslim Brotherhood

Egypt's official women's rights council says Islamists who reject a UN blueprint to combat violence against women and girls are promoting the idea that Islam favours violence against women. Last week, 131 countries at the United Nations approved the non-binding document to combat violence against women and girls. Egypt's ruling Muslim Brotherhood strongly objected to the document, saying it clashed with Islamic principles. In Cairo on Thursday the head of the women's council, Mervat Tellawy, called on the Brotherhood to stop using religion to promote its agenda. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New law in India hailed as a victory for women

Women's rights. Stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment among the targets of the legislation

India's Parliament passed a sweeping new law Thursday to protect women against sexual violence in response to a fatal December gang rape and beating of a young woman on a bus in New Delhi.

The new law, which still requires the president's signature before it becomes official, makes stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment a crime. It also provides for the death penalty for repeat offenders or for rape attacks that lead to the victim's death. The law makes it a crime for police to refuse to open cases when they receive complaints of sexual attacks.

Activists hailed the law as a milestone even as they raised concerns over certain provisions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milestone

The law was hurried through Parliament after a gang rape on a bus in December sparked nationwide protests demanding the government do more to safeguard women.

- But the government's refusal to criminalize marital rape was criticized.

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Peace is possible: Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama waves as he leaves the stage after speaking at the International Convention Center in Jerusalem on Thursday. Obama insisted "peace is possible," prodding Israelis and Palestinians to return to negotiations with few, if any, pre-conditions.

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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More than 100 hurt in massive pileup on an Alberta highway

Weather. Blizzard blasting through the Prairies is being blamed for the crash

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
Metro in Edmonton

An estimated 100 people were injured in a massive crash involving at least 100 vehicles on a highway near Leduc, Alta.

On Thursday afternoon, Alberta Health Services (AHS) initially said 300 people were en route to hospitals in the Edmonton area as a result of the crash. Shortly after, AHS revised the number to 100.

About 22 people went to area hospitals, including one adult with serious injuries. About 80 others suffered minor to moderate injuries and were treated at the site, where Greyhound buses were used as triage centres.

Edmonton Transit sent four buses to shelter patients on the scene.

"There's probably about 10 different hospitals, maybe more that we're utilizing," said Kerry Williamson, spokesperson for AHS.

Paramedics, EMS crews and firefighters trudged through the snow, going from vehicle to vehicle to check on those inside, Williamson said.

He added that the crash spurred a code orange, meaning a mass-casualty mode, at local hospitals.

"We haven't dealt with anything like this but we do have plans," Williamson said.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOR THE LATEST ON THIS STORY VISIT METRONEWS.CA

A pickup truck is sandwiched between two vehicles in a pileup that left more than 100 people injured. A blizzard that has been blasting through the Prairies is being blamed for the crash on Highway 2, south of Edmonton. DEREK FILDEBRANDT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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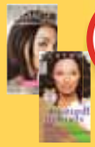

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Budget bets on status quo

Federal finance plan. Blueprint adds no new money while largely reshuffling expenses

When Jim Flaherty was a young man, they called it a brake stand — one foot on the gas and one on the brake, creating lots of noise and plumes of blue smoke but moving the vehicle sideways if at all.

Stephen Harper's finance minister is banking that all the torque in his eighth federal budget, delivered Thursday, will propel the Canadian economy forward in a burst sometime next year.

It's all geared to a fall 2015 election date, when Prime Minister Stephen Harper hopes to woo Canadian voters with the first balanced federal budget since 2008.

In the meantime, Flaherty's foot remains firmly on the spending brake in a 2013-14 fiscal blueprint that shuffles priorities, re-allocates resources and cracks down on tax cheats but adds no new money while continuing dramatic cuts to direct program expenses.

The deficit for the current fiscal year that ends in two weeks is projected to be $25.9 billion — exactly as forecast in the fall fiscal update but up significantly from the $21.1 billion posited by Flaherty in last March's budget.

Part of that bump comes from a one-time, $2.4-billion increase in Ottawa's nuclear-cleanup liability.

Total spending, including debt-servicing charges, will rise to $282.6 billion this year, up less than one per cent on the 2012-13 spending envelope of $280.1 billion. That's effectively a cut after inflation and population growth are factored in.

More significantly, direct program expenses — which exclude major transfers to other levels of government — are projected to plunge almost $4 billion this year and another $2.5 billion in 2014-15. The exact nature of those program cuts remains something of a mystery.

"It's very much a status quo budget," said economist Derek Burleton of TD Bank. "Reallocation is a key theme." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty's mission

Canadians have faith "that their government will be a benign and silent partner in their enterprise, not an overbearing behemoth squeezing them at every turn."

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to the House of Commons in his budget speech.

Deficit

$25.9B

The deficit for the current fiscal year is projected to be $25.9 billion.

Assumptions

While the budget is deeply conservative, many of its assumptions are not:

- **Fighting tax loopholes and cheats** will rake in half a billion dollars this year and rise to $1.3 billion the next.
- **GST revenues**, up 1.8 per cent in 2012-13, will grow 4.9 per cent a year.
- **Corporate tax revenue** will jump by 5.5 per cent a year, on average.

5 things to know about the budget

1

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty THE CANADIAN PRESS

It'll get you the skills to pay the bills

The key feature is the Canada Job Grant. According to the budget, the grant "could provide $15,000 or more per person" for short-term training. Only $5,000 would be contributed by the federal government, with matching contributions coming from provinces and employers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2

The outside world under one tent

The Canadian International Development Agency, which performs aid work in developing countries, will be swallowed up by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The new entity will be called the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. The government says it "will continue to serve the same functions as the old departments." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CIDA, with the Canadian Red Cross, provided these winterized tents to earthquake-hit Turkey in 2011.

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

3

Billions to back building boom

The Conservative government is devoting $14 billion over a decade by renewing a deal that helps cities invest in infrastructure.

"Infrastructure creates jobs, supports trade and fuels economic growth," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said.

The new Building Canada Fund will replace a seven-year deal set to expire next year and give provincial and municipal governments time to plan and to figure out how to match the funding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISTOCK

4

Can't afford to stay active AND clothe your baby? Feds have you covered

The federal government is cutting tariffs on baby clothing and athletic equipment in hopes the price breaks trickle down to consumers.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the $76-million cut in reaction to ongoing discrepancies between Canada and the U.S. "Some products consistently cost more in Canada compared to the exact same products sold in the United States," the budget said.

The tariff cut applies to baby clothing and sports and athletic equipment, such as ice skates, hockey equipment, skis, snowboards and golf clubs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISTOCK

5

Call it the "judge-it" budget

Political opponents were not kind to the plan.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair called it a "shell-game con job," and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May dubbed it the "fudge-it budget."

"The propaganda machine is going to be working overtime, because they've repackaged and put together some old programs and given them new names," groused Bob Rae, the interim Liberal leader. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair

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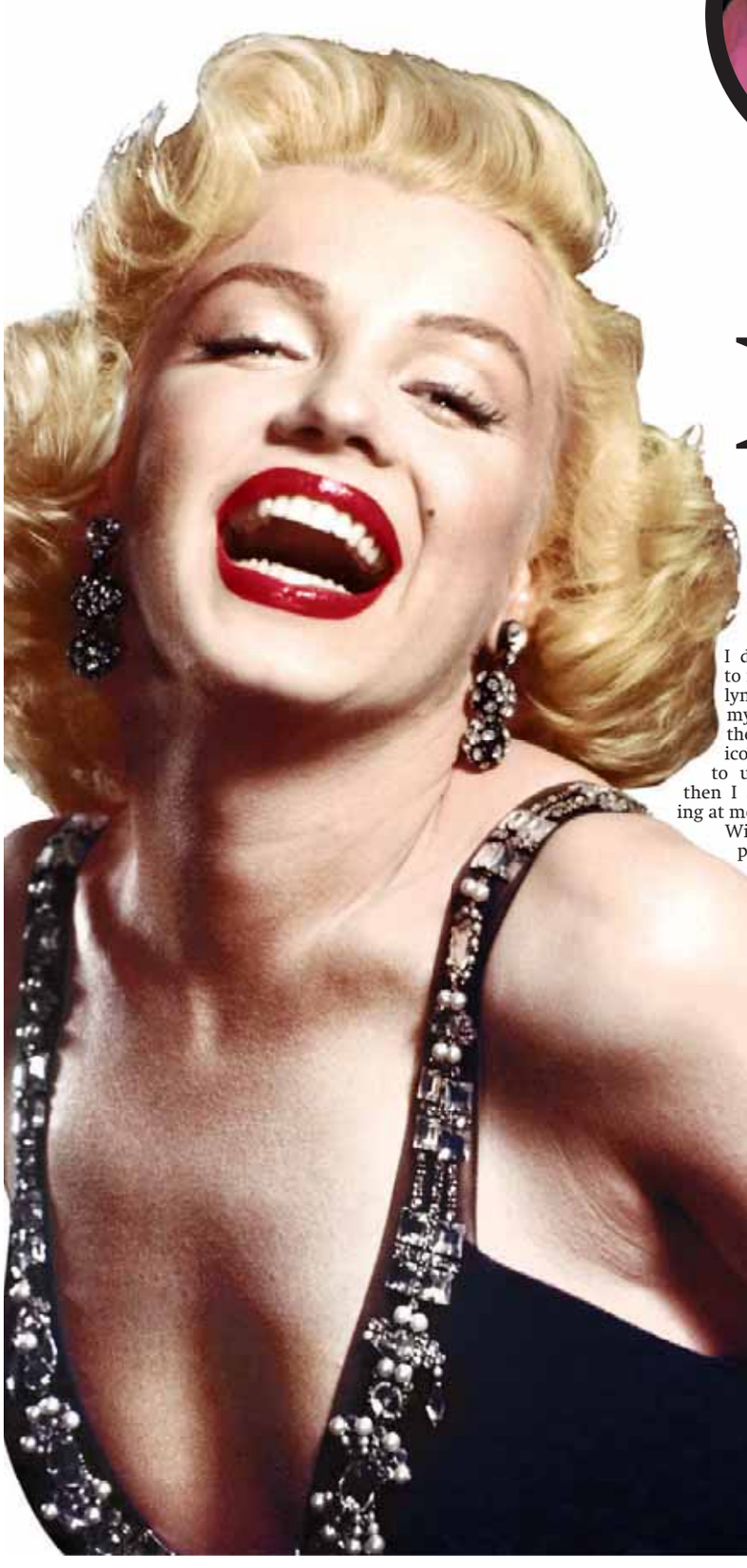
1950s
Marilyn Monroe



1960s
Twiggy

1970s
Farrah Fawcett

Beautiful in

Today, bombshells explode on the scene and quickly disappear. There's no iconic image of beauty to represent the past decade. Angelina Jolie's impossible curves are still sexy, but so are Tina Fey's intelligence and Serena Williams' athleticism. **Melita Kuburas** explores why esthetic decentralization may be problematic.

I didn't set out to find the Marilyn Monroe of my generation, the one beauty icon that speaks to us all — but then I saw her staring at me.

With her imperfect teeth, messy, bleached hair and morning-after complexion, musician Liza Thorn is the anti-Marilyn, and we need more like her.

Thorn's unlikely ascent as a style icon — she has an affinity for ripped stockings and tattered coats — was featured last month in the New York Times' fashion app The Collection. ("She is a beguiling presence," writes the Times's William Van Meter.) Thorn likely won't capture our attention for long, but the fascination with her carefree look is symbolic of a change that's occurred within the beauty industry. There is no longer a single beauty or style icon that captures our admiration. Bombshells explode onto the scene; we become enraptured, then quickly move on to someone else.

"We used to look to magazine supermodels and to Hollywood celebrities and starlets to define iconic beauty. But not only is Hollywood a little bit more diverse, our definitions and expectations for beauty are far more diverse," says Sidneyeve Matrix, associate professor of media and film at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.

Matrix says the online space has "democratized" the beauty industry.

"Social media is now a mainstream broadcast platform for us," she says. "We can all chime in and vote for what we think is interesting and smart and beautiful."

Thanks to Instagram, Tumblr and YouTube, we've replaced yesterday's beauty emblems with our own, more diverse images and content, Matrix says.

You don't have to be a magazine editor to review makeup, attend Fashion Week or participate in trunk shows or store openings.

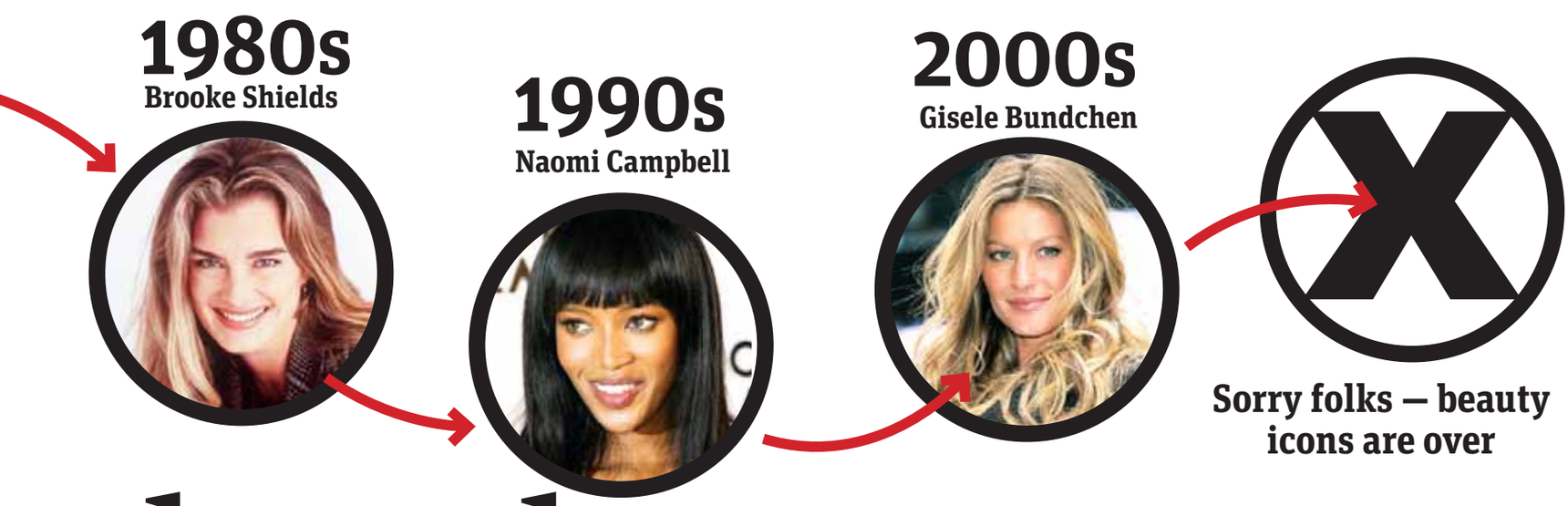
Those are some of the perks Kerrilyn Wong has enjoyed since she started writing her blog, There's Something About Kerri. Wong, 26, has a knack for spotting unique pieces and putting together enviable outfits. But she gravitated to beauty blogs for another reason — at five-foot-four, she couldn't relate to the leggy models in magazines.

"Their body proportions were not similar to mine," writes Wong from Vancouver, where she's a student at BCIT. "The hemline of a dress on a magazine model may fall above her knees, but for shorter girls, it may fall to their calves and make them appear stubby."

Beauty blogs are seen as more relatable than mainstream publications because the bloggers evince insecurities

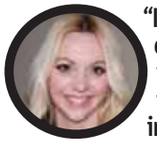
Exclusively online

A face-research lab compiled numerous images of faces to create one composite "average" face, and found the result was surprisingly attractive. Metro talked to the researcher who runs the lab. Visit metronews.ca for the interview and to find out how you can make your own composite face. For more on beauty, check out our interactive face map.



Sorry folks — beauty icons are over a heartbeat

Quoted



"If we are feeling insecure, we always want to find a way to make ourselves continue to feel insecure. Having images in the media that are so beautiful and so glamorous keeps us in our place. So there's a part of us that wants it; it feeds that part of us to feel inadequate." **Kimberly Moffit, psychotherapist,** on why we feed on aspirational images of beauty

similar to our own. Wong, for instance, has shared about her own dieting and exercise, talking openly about the body parts she's focusing on toning up.

But that "realness" factor is deceiving, argues Sabrina Maddeaux, managing editor of Toronto Standard, an online publication that covers urban affairs, style and culture. Most popular bloggers are not challenging the status quo, she says.

"I think blogs, social media and 'street style' started off as positive forces for diversity in beauty and fashion, but as they've become more associated, supported and controlled by mainstream media outlets, brands and advertisers, they've become quite harmful," Maddeaux says.

"A lot of these bloggers have risen to fame through the support of major media outlets and brands, who then turn around and use their association with them to say: 'Look at us! We're being real!' But they're just different versions of the same girls they've always featured in magazines and campaigns."

Maddeaux sees a superficial improvement when it comes to diversity in magazines.

Stars like Kim Kardashian, Christina Hendricks and Beyoncé are praised for their "curvier" bodies and accept their stardom as proof that Hollywood supports a healthier body image. But while those women are exceptionally attractive, their beauty — doe eyes, puffy lips, large breasts — is ultimately rather conventional.

"Plus-size models still have to fit into a very specific size range — one that doesn't reflect the majority of women — and even the 'quirky, intelligent' celebrities like Tina Fey still look like most people's prom queen," Maddeaux argues. "Clearly, editorial teams are still way behind the curve on this."

Even though our culture lacks a single personification, there's still a set of standards of beauty and physique that the media continues to enforce, says Kimberly Moffit, a Toronto-based psychotherapist. "I think that can be discouraging for young women."

Both Moffit and Maddeaux are concerned about the idolization of single body parts — Pippa Middleton's butt, Scarlett Johansson's lips, a skinny runway model's "thigh gap."

"The rate at which we speed through icons, and fragmentize them, is actually much more de-humanizing than what we saw in decades past," Maddeaux says.

The transience of contemporary beauty icons has come with its own problems, but there is still a healthier balance than once existed.

"Think about Twiggy and how specific that body type was," Moffit says. "There were probably some women that really struggled because they saw pictures of Twiggy and wished that they could be like her."

When there is a dominant ideal of beauty — whether it's a blond woman with large breasts or a waifish woman with round eyes — we are less likely to see our own qualities as attractive.

A U.K. study published last year found evidence that our "visual diet" affects our acceptance of larger shapes and sizes. The authors say women who were shown pictures of heavier models were afterward more likely to accept theirs as an ideal body type.

If the study is right, then seeing more women with peculiar features like Thorn's praised for their looks may make us feel more accepting of our own.

Cover models not just pretty faces

There are a wide range of cover girls these days because the women's magazine industry is more fragmented, says Kerry Mitchell, a former publisher of women's magazines including Chatelaine and Flare.

"Media is just much more interactive. It's far easier now for consumers to align themselves with groups or tribes they have a particular affinity for," says Mitchell. "One group's idea of beauty or style can be very different than another's and that's OK."

Women have different expectations of different magazines, and cover models and the way they are — or aren't — written about must align with them, she says.

In fashion magazines, "the height of visual artistry is the appeal and you're less interested in the woman. But, in others, looking behind the veil and learning about the life behind the look is highly appealing," she says. For example, Mitchell places Canadian supermodel Coco Rocha among the top of today's beauty icons, in part because she has, over time, connected with a segment of the fashion audience as a person.

"She can be reflected now not just as a canvas for portraying the latest in some great designer's imagination. She has an authentic and legitimate appeal to the women who really care what she has to say," Mitchell says.

No matter what kind of women's magazine a woman is reading, beauty is part of the allure, says Mitchell. "Beautiful visuals and an aspirational quality are always part of the appeal of sinking into your favourite magazine." **JESSICA SMITH/METRO**

That's hot

Gossip columns obsess over it, magazines search for it and Paris Hilton trademarked the phrase, but our concept of what's hot seems to change too quickly to truly define. Beauty, on the other hand, is a little different.

"When I look at what's beautiful, that's people who have a classic beauty," says Lisa Tant, vice-president, fashion editor at Holt Renfrew. "Hot is what's sexy. (It changes) all the time. With Twitter, it can change tomorrow."

According to Dr. Peter Adamson, an otolaryngologist (head and neck surgeon) practising in facial plastic surgery, what we find hot, or attractive, is based on a composite of the hundreds of people we see around us. But apprehending beauty, says Adamson, isn't a matter of opinion so much as a matter of hormones.

"The features we find beautiful are those features we know are derived from high estrogen levels (in women)," he says, adding that high estrogen levels mean high fertility.

For a woman, these features include larger eyes, a smaller nose, a short, triangular jaw line and high cheekbones. For a man, beauty is based on features derived from high levels of androgen, he says. This means smaller eyes, lower brows, a square face, a strong jaw and a bigger nose.

"It's a very hard-wired thing. It's been with us for generations and generations," Adamson says.

Globalization of beauty

There may never be another Marilyn Monroe. Tant is OK with that. According to Tant, there has been a major shift in the beauty world.

"When Marilyn Monroe was considered the look of the decade ... people didn't have a voice. Now, our standard of beauty is much more universal," she says.

The proof is in the magazines, which feature models and celebrities from all over the world. Blond hair and blue eyes have been replaced with an array of different colours.

"The No. 1 model in the world — her name is Joan Smalls; she's from Puerto Rico.... She's not blond hair and blue eyes. Fashion now is global," Tant says.

Adamson not only agrees with Tant; he can explain the phenomenon.

"The beauty ideal is changing, so the reason it's changing is that we're seeing the globalization of beauty," he says.

This shift in beauty has to do with immigration and social media. The more we see different cultures around us, the more we want to emulate their looks.

"The point is, there are many different celebrity and beauty icons today, and they're not all Caucasian, whereas 50 years ago they were," Adamson says. **RITA POLIAKOV/METRO**

Joan Smalls
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Photo credits: Marilyn Monroe: Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images File; Twiggy: The Associated Press File; Farrah Fawcett: Hulton Archive/Getty Images File; Brooke Shields: Getty Images File; Naomi Campbell: Martial Trezzini/Keystone/The Associated Press File; Gisele Bundchen: Getty Images File

Operation Jumbo drop?

Military may help with relocating elephants

The Royal Canadian Air Force is considering a proposal to move three Toronto-based elephants to a new home in California, a national zoo watchdog said on Thursday.

Julie Woodyer, campaign director with Zoo Check Canada, said she personally requested help from the military to ensure the pachyderms are relocated as soon as possible.

However, a spokeswoman for the Canadian Forces said Thursday that "no such request has been received."

"The Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces receive numerous requests each year for the use of military resources," Capt. Kendrah Allison said in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Testifying

PM's aide appears at Magnotta hearing

A senior confidante to Stephen Harper testified at a preliminary hearing in Montreal for accused killer Luka Rocco Magnotta as it wrapped up Thursday before a two-week break.

Several witnesses came from Ottawa to testify including Jenni Byrne, who has served the prime minister in senior roles in his office and in the Conservative party.

Magnotta has pleaded not guilty to five charges and opted for a jury trial.

Magnotta is facing four counts in addition to a murder charge: Committing an indignity to a body, publishing obscene material, criminally harassing Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other members of Parliament and mailing obscene and indecent material.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Northern Manitoba

Details of wolf attack questioned

The bizarre account of a wolf attack on a woman along a lonely stretch of a northern Manitoba highway is being questioned by some wildlife experts.

Dawn Hepp told news media this week that a wolf clamped its jaws around her neck after she stopped to help another motorist on Highway 6 on March 8.

Ken Rebizant with Manitoba Conservation says wolves tend to avoid people, and the department is asking experts outside the province what they make of the story.

Hepp said the wolf let go and she managed to get back to her vehicle and go for medical help

Paul Paquet, a University of Calgary biology professor and author of a best-selling book on wolves, says something happened but he has doubts about the details of the attack. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drumming, dancing and discontent

Nikki Shawana and her two-year-old son, Miikaanhn, sing during a round-dance protest, part of the Idle No More movement, that blocked an intersection in downtown London, Ont., for about an hour on Thursday. GEOFF ROBINS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Officer killed in crash seen as a fearless woman who loved her job

A young policewoman who achieved her childhood dream of joining the force only to have it cut short by a tragic car crash was remembered on Thursday for her fearless approach to life and her unwavering devotion to her community.

Police officers from across Ontario were among the thousands of mourners who gathered to pay tribute to Const. Jennifer Kovach, 26, who was killed last week when her cruiser crossed the centre line and collided with a bus.

That Kovach was responding to another officer's call for assistance at the time only shows how passionate she was about the work she considered her calling, Guelph, Ont., police Chief Brian Larkin told the sombre crowd that nearly filled a 5,000-seat centre.

"Without fear, she selflessly accepted that call to duty and sacrificed her life for the greater cause and the greater good," said Larkin, describing his colleague as a "young, vibrant and dedicated police officer" who inspired all around her.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pallbearers carry the casket of Const. Jennifer Kovach as her father, Bill, right, looks on during the funeral service in Guelph, Ont., on Thursday.
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'He wasn't operating in our world'

In closing submissions, defence lawyer Bob Richardson said Richard Kachkar, pictured, could not be held criminally responsible given his delusional state. Kachkar killed a Toronto police officer with a stolen snowplow in 2011.
THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

Distressed. Richard Kachkar's attorney says his client had shown signs of a major mental disorder for years

A barefoot man who killed a police officer with a stolen snowplow in Toronto after a bizarre rampage through the streets two years ago had clearly lost his grip on reality, his first-degree murder trial heard on Thursday.

In closing submissions, defence lawyer Bob Richardson said Richard Kachkar could not be held criminally responsible given his delusional state.

"He lacked capacity to form criminal intent," Richardson told the jury.

"He wasn't operating in our world."

Dressed in light dress pants and shirt under a dark blazer, Kachkar, 44, listened impassively as his lawyer reprised the evidence of three psychiatrists, who concluded he was psychotic when he struck and left a dying Sgt. Ryan Russell, 35, bleeding in the snow.

Richardson reminded jurors how a shoeless Kachkar had bolted from a downtown shelter out into the snow on the early morning of Jan. 12, 2011.

"Whatever slim hold Mr. Kachkar may have had on reality, slips away," Richardson said.

Kachkar went into and then fled a nearby doughnut shop, jumping into the idling snowplow. He drove erratically through the streets, making frequent U-turns, hitting cars and yelling about Chinese technology, the Taliban and microchips in his body.

Richardson quoted Kachkar at another point as saying: "I don't know what happened. It was like a dream or something. A normal person wouldn't do that. I don't know what's going on."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assad supporters hack BBC Twitter accounts

A screenshot of the BBC weather service's Twitter account on Thursday, after it was hacked along with two other BBC accounts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online security. Prank is latest in string of web attacks by group called Syrian Electronic Army

Supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad hijacked the Twitter accounts of the BBC's weather and Arabic services on Thursday and posted messages that were by turns political, anti-Semitic and comical.

The BBC confirmed that several accounts had been hacked, saying that it is "actively working" on the issues and expected them to be resolved shortly.

The hackers identified themselves as members of the Syrian Electronic Army, a group that has carried out a string of web attacks against targets such as Al-Jazeera, which it sees as sympathetic to Syria's rebels.

The BBC Weather, BBC Arabic and BBC Radio Ulster accounts appear to have been the targets. Among the messages posted on the BBC Weather Twitter account were "Long Live Syria Al-Assad" and "Saudi weather station down due to head-on collision with camel."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican bat signal

- One of the Vatican's main Twitter accounts, @pccs-va, and the website of its communications office were running stories about Batman on Thursday, raising concerns they might have been hacked.
- But Vatican communications adviser Greg Burke said the sites had not been hacked and that the story is a legitimate Catholic News Service story. "Admittedly some people might have been thrown off by the headline," he said.

Q4. Lululemon says pants recall put customer loyalty ahead of, er, bottom line

Lululemon Athletica Inc., the Vancouver-based retailer of workout gear, admits the recent recall of its black Luon pants will put the pinch on earnings this year, but says keeping customer loyalty is paramount.

"Delivering the top quality our guests expect is a critical factor in our differentiation in the marketplace," CEO Christine Day said in delivering an upbeat fourth-quarter earnings report Thursday that slightly exceeded analysts' expectations.

The company said earlier this week it was pulling some of its stretchy black pants from its shelves because of manufacturing problems that made them too sheer.

Day said it wasn't known whether it was the ingredients, specific manufacturers or problems with the manufacturing process that caused the black Luon pants to be overly see-through. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Banking

TD site forced offline by attack

TD Canada Trust says it was hit by a "targeted" cyber attack Thursday, forcing its banking website and mobile banking service to go offline for several hours. The bank says the denial-of-service attack occurred mid-morning and prevented its customers from logging on to its website and mobile site. Such an attack occurs when hackers flood a website with a large amount of fake traffic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU SHEER LEMONS

THE METRO LIST

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

1 Lulu of a lemon. Yoga togs manufacturer recalls its Luon yoga pants because if you look closely enough, you can see through them. I'm not sure why that's a problem, but the recall has led to a critical yoga-pants shortage (really?). On the other hand, it's led to an over-abundance of clever headlines, like this one from fashionista.com: I See London, I See France: Lululemon Recalls See-through Yoga Pants.

2 Don't cry for me, Argentina. But you can say a prayer if you like. The first non-European pope in a zillion years channels the beloved St. Francis of Assisi and advocates on behalf of the poor and the environment. But if you're a gay couple that wants to get married, save your prayer for the next one, maybe.

3 Global village idiot. Let me see if I've got this: Cyprus, the world's 159th biggest country, is a tax haven for Russian oligarchs. Its banks invest in Greece (not smart); then Greece goes belly-up, and Cyprus wants a bailout. The EU tells Cyprus to eat baklava, so Cyprus gets the bright idea to plunder people's personal savings, but before they can, the Russian oligarchs take all their money out of Cypriot banks. This has led to unstable markets around the world. It's random, dude …

4 Crouching Tiger, hidden dragon lady? Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn are dating. He's won 76 PGA tour events and she's won 59 World Cup ski races. She's been the athlete of the year (2010). He's been the athlete of the decade (2009). I'm already looking forward to the breakup. Should be world-class.

5 Lean in, fall down. OK, girlfriend, you're trying to make partner at a national law firm, you're getting your master's in quantum physics, you have two children in pre-Ivy league boarding school, you're a gourmet cook, you're the CEO of home. Now you have to read this stupid book by some Facebook COO that says you're not trying hard enough to rule the world. Lean in on this, Sheryl Sandberg.

6 Fiscal fine print. Thursday's federal budget was pretty boring unless you're a tax lawyer or a business editor. Except for this item: Ottawa to raise tariff on goods from 72 countries, except baby clothes and hockey equipment, which are exempt. So that's Stephen Harper's plan for Canada.

7 2013, A Space Oddity. Voyager 1, launched in 1977, is now 12 billion miles from home, and according to the American Geophysical Union, it has left the solar system. Then, a few hours later, the AGU backed off its original statement, saying only that the little vessel has entered a new region of space. Could be the first recorded case of cosmic premature ejaculation.

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ZOOM

Toronto birds hitting the wall

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROM exhibits thousands of dead birds

The bodies of about 2,400 birds that died in collisions with buildings while trying to navigate through Toronto's skyline were on display at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto Thursday.

The exhibit is part of an annual public awareness campaign launched by the Fatal Light Awareness Program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Look out

1M

The exhibit includes 91 species and represents only a small sample of the estimated one million birds that die annually in collisions with Toronto buildings, mostly office towers.

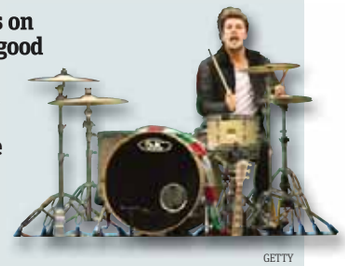
Charges dropped against developer

Last month, an Ontario judge found that the owner of a Toronto office building was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of birds that flew into its highly reflective windows. However, the judge acquitted the owner because it did due diligence in trying to rectify the problem. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

If you're reading this on transit, chances are good there's an ad for a radio station nearby. Chances are equally good it's pushing the same handful of artists you can hear just as easily by shopping at the mall. So why not check out these Canadian music blogs and discover something new?



GETTY

Silent Shout
Named after The Knife's revered 2006 album, it's the ultimate bookmark for those who like their electronic music dark and a little menacing. (silentshout.ca)

Weird Canada
Whatever genre is your jam, this relentless crew will find gold for you. Bonus feature: the vivid song descriptions are second to none. (weirdcanada.com)

Quick Before It Melts
A daily dose of gems from Canadian bands, reliably curated with impeccable taste. (quickbeforeitmelts.com)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Cheaper gas? More housing? What would you like to see included in the federal budget? #eap13

@ibew_sparky: raise minimum wage

@seanorr: A completely re-worked economy favouring renewable energy and not hinged on constant growth at any cost, divestment in military

@Samyzz: I would like there to be more housing, including for youth in poverty. Also more financial aid to those unemployed for a year.

@ermahgerd_amber: #toronto without #robford. that's gotta be within the budget, somewhere. #eap13 #TOpoli

@Jordan_Daniels: #eap13 A look at how to make #Vancouver a more affordable place to live! Then we would be the BEST PLACE TO LIVE!

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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Synopsis

When a judgment call costs him his job as a personal security guard to the president of the United States (Aaron Eckhart), Mike Banning (Gerard Butler) is reassigned to a desk job in the Treasury Department. He wants his old job back and a second chance to show he has the right stuff. He gets another crack at it when North Korean terrorists invade Washington, overtake the White House, killing POTUS's entire security team and kidnapping the prez. As the only man left with a gun and knowledge of the White House's security systems, he alone must protect the future of the free world!

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●●○○

Gerard Butler is the only one who can save the day in Olympus Has Fallen. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Fallin' for the action

Olympus Has Fallen.
By-the-book hostage flick is full of bombs, bodies and bad guys

Richard: Olympus Has Fallen is about as standard as action movies get. It's so standard that the two most presidential of actors — Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman — both play the Commander in Chief. This movie has everything you expect, which, if you have low expectations — and you should — is guns, bombs and at least one character who comforts a mortally wounded man with the words, "C'mon! Hang in there!"

Imagine Red Dawn with fewer teenagers and a bigger body count.

Mark: With a plot ripped from the pages of season 3 of 24, the movie still satisfies the craving for high body count and low originality. If you like to think one man can make a difference then this is the film for you. A B minus movie to be sure but with A level actors and direction.

RC: I liked how director Antoine "Training Day" Fuqua embraces the '80s-style B-movieness of it all. It's all bash, boom, bang with a side of motive — evil North Korean mastermind Rick Yune wants to reignite the Korean civil war the U.S. interrupted — and the kind of patriotism that only ever shows up in movies like this. For example, Banning crushes a bad guy's skull with a statue of Abraham Lincoln.

MB: I think this movie might have a different effect on Canadian audiences who wouldn't be quite so moved to patriotism. And remember, when some nutcase stormed into 24 Sussex during the Chrétien era, the PM brained him with an Eskimo carving. Game over!

RC: Ha! This movie isn't really about the patriotism, or any of that flag-waving stuff. It's all about the body count. The first 20 minutes or so is spent on "character development," an attempt to make stock characters — like the charming but fearless Secret Service agent — but it really begins with the audacious attack and the ensuing mayhem. I think if you had a poster of Dolph Lundgren on your wall in 1984 or rent JCVD movies today you'll likely find a kindred spirit in Olympus Has Fallen.

MB: Still, I enjoyed this movie because I'm partial to thrillers that take place in one defined space. You mentioned Lundgren but I'm thinking the lead might have been played by Bruce Willis in his early Die Hard days.

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Actress has no trouble with a double

The Host. Saoirse Ronan had fun with duelling roles in Stephenie Meyer's latest imagining

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Saoirse Ronan, right, stars in The Host, which opens next Friday. HANDOUT

Talking to herself comes naturally to young Irish actress Saoirse Ronan, so her dual roles in The Host weren't really that daunting. In the film — based on Twilight author Stephenie Meyer's novel — Ronan plays a human named Melanie living in a future where alien parasites have come to earth and lodged themselves in the brains of humans, taking over their bodies and fixing the planet in the process. Melanie gets implanted, leading to the alien Wanda taking over her body, but with one complication: Melanie doesn't go away, remaining as a rather upset voice in Wanda's head.

That means a good amount of the movie consists of Ronan having conversations with her own voiceover. "That was a big question for me when I was going into it was how we were going to do this," Ronan says. Eventually, she and director Andrew Niccol settled on an earpiece that would transmit Ronan's prerecorded Melanie dialogue on Niccol's cue, something none of Ronan's co-stars could hear. "I talk to myself so much anyway that it was just like a normal day for me," she says. "So it was a very natural thing for me to talk to myself."

While Meyer's mega-hit vampire series revolved around a love triangle between a human girl, a vampire and a werewolf, she clearly felt the need to up the complexity factor for her followup. In The Host, Melanie has a boyfriend (Max Irons) from before she becomes inhabited, which becomes more of a problem when another human survivor (Jake Abel) becomes interested in Wanda — while she's inhabiting Melanie's body. So what exactly do we call a situation like that? It's not exactly a love triangle anymore.

"We're saying it's a love square," Ronan says. "Or a love rectangle, or I think a love parallelogram is another. I quite like that one. It's kind of impressive. So yeah, you can take your pick. As long as it has four sides, you know."

Quoted

"I talk to myself so much anyway that it was just like a normal day for me."

Saoirse Ronan on having dialogue with herself in The Host

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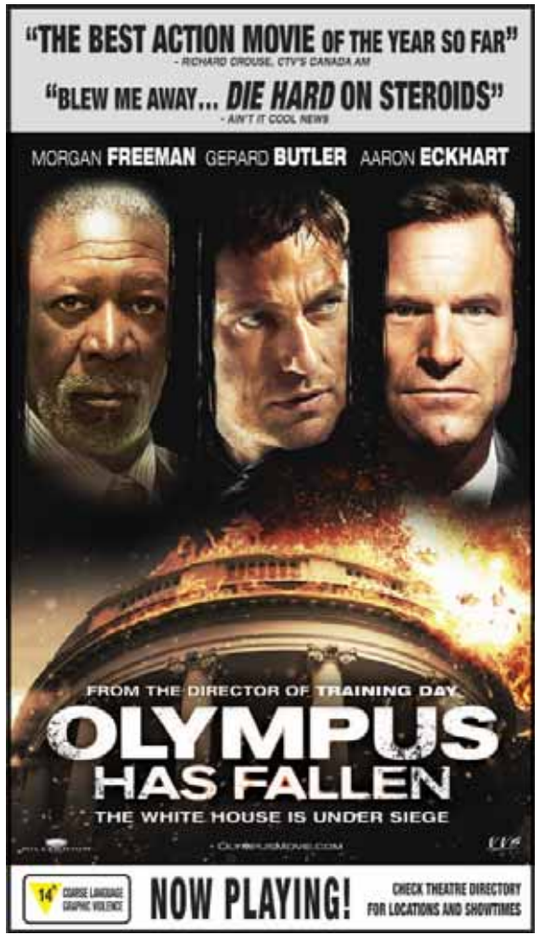
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- RICHARD CROUSE, CTV'S CANADA AM
"BLEW ME AWAY... DIE HARD ON STEROIDS"
- AIN'T IT COOL NEWS
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Drama

Home Again

Director. Sudz Sutherland

Stars. Tatyana Ali, Lyriq Bent

Sutherland's unsettling but well-made anthology follows three deportees sent back to Jamaica after losing status. A Canadian woman is separated from her children without notice and forced to live with hostile relatives in Jamaica, a situation that soon becomes dangerous. A New Yorker soon repeats the mistakes of his past by taking work as a drug house security guard. And the third, a pampered middle class student from London, completely loses his way. Watching their downward spirals is gut-wrenching.

ANNE BRODIE

Action

New World

Director. Park Hoon-jung

Stars. Choi Min-sik, Lee Jung-jae

There isn't much new in New World that hasn't already been explored in Asian actioners such as Infernal Affairs (which later inspired The Departed). Still, the thriller about a gang of potential successors vying for the top job when their gangster boss is killed does have a few scenes of sheer intensity. Toss in an undercover cop and a gripping six-man scrap in an elevator and genre fans should be satisfied.

STEVE GOW

Family/Animation

The Croods

Directors. Chris Sanders, Kirk De Micco

Stars. Nicolas Cage, Emma Stone

In Hollywood, what goes around comes around and so I suppose it's time for a new version of The Flintstones. The Croods is the new modern stone-age family — only this clan is so nervous of colourful prehistoric creatures, they rarely leave their beloved cave — except for their restless daughter of course. While there's nothing quite original in the juvenile dialogue, a few worthy gags and a frantic pace certainly keeps The Croods from ever being a snooze. **STEVE GOW**

Comedy

Admission

Director. Paul Weitz

Stars. Tina Fey, Paul Rudd

As an uptight admissions officer for Princeton University, Tina Fey brings the fragility of 30 Rock's Liz Lemon but hardly as many laughs. When she unwittingly falls for a new-age teacher (Rudd) attempting to get his autodidact student accepted, she's forced to face some harsh truths. Fey may battle contrived plotting and being upstaged by her underused feminist mother (Lily Tomlin), but Admission is still smarter than the average adult comedy.

STEVE GOW

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The young and the greatness

Elle Fanning, 14, does some incredible work as a teenager caught up in the anti-nukes activism of 1960s London in the new coming-of-age drama Ginger & Rosa. Here's a look at five other child actresses who have wowed:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shirley Temple

The original. What precocious little girl hasn't watched Temple singing and dancing to On the Good Ship Lollipop and thought to herself: "That looks like fun — I want to do that too"? Of course, we all couldn't do it because she had that rare "thing" — that spark, that zest, that glow. She also worked her butt off perfecting her craft at a very young age — she started dancing at three.

Elizabeth Taylor

In her early, family-friendly films such as Lassie Come Home and especially National Velvet, Taylor had a startling and mature beauty for someone her age. Something about her aura radiated a grace and sophistication well beyond her years. Those mesmerizing eyes, that luxurious dark hair and flawless skin. It was as if she never went through the sort of awkward pre-adolescent stage the rest of us endured.

Jodie Foster

As she said in her rambling speech at this year's Golden Globes, she's been in the public eye since age three. Now at 50, the two-time Oscar winner is a great example of remaining strong and vital throughout the transition from child stardom to adulthood. Foster had confidence and swagger from her earliest days —it's evident even in something silly like a guest appearance on The Partridge Family.

Kirsten Dunst

She started modelling and appearing in commercials when she was only a few years old, but her breakout role at age 12 was playing the adorably creepy vampire Claudia opposite Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt in Interview With the Vampire. Great choices from there have included Sofia Coppola's The Virgin Suicides, Marie Antoinette and Michel Gondry's dreamlike Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

Abigail Breslin

She was one of the youngest-ever Oscar nominees at age 10 for her charming, vulnerable and ultimately inspiring performance as awkward pageant contestant Olive in the crowd-pleasing indie Little Miss Sunshine. But she made an impression even earlier than that when she made her film debut at just five in M. Night Shyamalan's Signs.

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Dunbar Theatre
4555 Dunbar Street

Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:35

Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street

Admission (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10
The Gatekeepers (PG) Fri-Thu 5-9:40
Hit 'n Strum (STC) Fri-Sun 12:45-2:55-7:20 Mon-Thu 2:15-7:20
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1-4-7-9:50 Wed 1-4-9:50 Thu 1-4-7-9:50
Quartet (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:15-6:40-9
Stoker (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:45-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:20

Pacific Cinémathèque
1131 Howe Street

All That She Wants (STC) Mon 6:30 Wed 8:15 Bestiaire (STC) Mon 8:30
Django Unchained (14A) Fri 8:35 Sat 6:30 Sun-Mon 8:35 Drifting States of Denis Cote (STC) Wed 6:30 Thu 8:10
The Mercenary (STC) Fri 6:30 Sat 8:15 Sun 8:35 No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue Our Private Lives (STC) Thu 6:30

Park Theatre
3440 Cambie Street

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 7-9:40 Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-7-9:50 Wed-Thu 1-4

Rio on Broadway
1660 E. Broadway

Blue Velvet (STC) Fri 11
Bubba Ho-Tep (STC) Thu 7
The Devil's Carnival (STC) Sat 9
John Dies at the End (STC) Thu 9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun Tue-Wed Reincarnated (14A) Mon 7-9
Repo! The Genetic Opera (18A) Sat 7

Scotiabank Theatre
Vancouver 900 Burrard St.

21 and Over (14A) Fri-Sat 12:45-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sun 12:45-3-5:20-7:50-10:20 Mon 3-5:20-7:50-10:20 Tue 12:45-3-5:30-8-10:30 Wed 2:25-4:45 Aliens (STC) Mon 7
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sat 3:15-6:50-10:20 Sun 1:40-5:20-9 Mon 3:15-10 Tue 1:40-5:20-9 Wed 3:15
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) Wed 7:10-9:50 Thu 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:50
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 7:50-10:30 Thu 12-2:40-5:15-8-10:45
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40 Sun 12:40-3:05-5:30-8-10:30 Mon 2:15-4:50-7:30-10:05 Tue 12:40-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40 Wed 2:15-4:45-7:30-10:05 Thu 12:40-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40 Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 2-4:40-7:20-10:10 Sun-Mon 2-4:40-7:20-10 Tue 2-4:40-7:20-10:10 Wed 2-4:40-7:20-10 Thu 2-4:40-7:20-10:10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1-3:50-7-9:55 Sat 11:15-1-3:50-7-9:55 Sun 1:10-4-7-9:55 Mon 1:10-4-10:10 Tue 1-3:50-7-9:55 Wed 1:10-4-7-9:55 Thu 1-3:50-9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Maria Stuarda Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:45 Mon 1-3:50-6:50-9:40 Tue 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:45 Wed 1-3:50-6:50-7:30-9:40-10:25 Thu 12:50-1:50-3:40-4:40-6:50-7:30-9:45-10:25 Fri 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Sat 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Wed 1:50-4:40
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:15 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon 1-3:50-6:45-9:45 Tue 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:15 Wed 1-3:50-6:45-9:45 Thu 12:30-3:30-7-10:15
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri 1:30-4:35-7:45-10:45 Sat 12:05-1:30-4:35-7:45-10:45 Sun 1-4-7:10-10:10 Mon 1:20-4:15-7:15-10:15 Tue 1:30-4:35-7:45-10:45 Wed 1:20-4:15-7:15-10:15 Thu 1:30-4:35-7:45-10:45
Royal Opera House: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (STC) Thu 7:30

Esplanade 6
200 West Esplanade

Admission (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-4-7-9:45 Wed-Thu 12:45-4-6:55-9:30
The Call (14A) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Thu 12:50-3:55-7:20-9:50
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) Thu 12:40-7
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 7-9:45 Thu 3:45-9:45
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-7:10-9:40
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:35
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Thu 12-6:30 Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 3:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 3:30-9:25 Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:40-9:20 Mon-Tue 6:40-9:20
Toonie Matinee - Hotel Transylvania (STC) Fri 12:50-3:55 Mon-Tue 12:15 Wed-Thu 3:55
Toonie Matinee - The Smurfs (STC) Fri 12:15-3:15 Mon-Tue 3:15 Wed-Thu 12:15

Park & Tilford
333 Brooksbank Ave.

The Croods (G) Fri 1:40-4:10-6:50-9:30 Sat 11:10-1:40-4:10-6:50-9:30 Sun-Wed 1:40-4:10-6:50-9:30 Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sun 12:20-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 12:15-2:15-4:40-7:05 Sat 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:05 Sun-Mon 2:15-4:40-7:05 Tue 12:15-2:15-4:40-7:05 Wed-Thu 2:15-4:40-7:05 Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Thu 10:15 Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri 1:55-4:35-7:15-9:55 Sat 11:20-1:55-4:35-7:15-9:55 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:15-9:55
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1:15-4:05-7-10 Sat 10:30-1:15-4:05-7-10 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:05-7-10 The Metropolitan Opera: Maria Stuarda Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Quartet (PG) Fri-Thu 2:20-4:45-7:20-9:45

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21 and Over (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 Wed 1-3:20-5:40-8 Thu 1:40-4-6:30
Admission (PG) Fri-Wed 12:15-2:50-5:20-8-10:40 Thu 5:20-8-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1 Aliens (STC) Mon 7
The Call (14A) Fri 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Sat 12:35-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G) Sat 11
The Croods (G) Fri 11:15-1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Sat 12:30-1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Sun 11:15-1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Mon-Tue 1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Wed 1:40-4:10-7-10:30 Thu 1:40-4:10-7-9:30 The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri-Tue 12:15 Wed 12:15-7:30 Thu 12:15-2:35-5-7:30 Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2:35-5-7:30 Wed 2:35-5
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) Wed 7:15-10 Thu 12:05-3:25-6:30-9:15
G.I. Joe: Retaliation — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Wed 7:30-10:15 Thu 1:55-4:35-7:30-10:15
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 7-9:45 Thu 12:45-4:15-7-9:45
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Sat 2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Sun 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Mon 12:20-2:45-5:20-10:30 Tue-Wed 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Thu 12:20-2:45-4:30-10:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:05-6:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:50-5:40-9:20
The Host (PG) Thu 9
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:35 Mon-Tue 1-4-7:15-10:10 Wed 1-4 InAPPropriate Comedy (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:25-5:05-7:50-10:35
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Mon 12:40-3:10-8:10-10:40 Tue 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:35 Wed 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Thu 1-5:40-8:10-10:40
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Mon-Tue 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Wed 12:45-3:30-7:45-10:30 Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:30
John Dies at the End (STC) Wed 9:30
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:05-10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Maria Stuarda Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Wed 7:30-10:25 Thu 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Wed 1:15-4
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-2:35-6-9 Mon-Thu 12-3-6:30-9:40
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:05-6:30-9:30
Oz the Great and Powerful: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:35-7-10 Wed 12:30-3:35
Royal Opera House: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (STC) Thu 7:30
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Tue 10:45 Wed-Thu 9:45 Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-3:15-6:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:20-10:25
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri 12-3:30-7-10:25 Sat 3:30-7-10:25 Sun 12-3:30-7-10:25 Mon-Tue 2:25-6:10-9:45 Wed 2:25

Dolphin Cinemas
4555 E. Hastings St.

The Croods (G) Fri 5-7:05-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:55-3-5-7:05-9:10 Mon 5-7:05-9:10 Tue 12:55-3-5-7:05-9:10 Wed-Thu 5-7:05-9:10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) Thu 4:45-7-9:15
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri 4:10-6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20 Mon 4:10-6:45-9:20 Tue 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20 Wed 4:10-6:45-9:20

SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave.

21 and Over (14A) Fri 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:35 Sat 3:30-5:50-8:10-10:35 Sun 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:35 Mon-Tue 1-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:20 Wed 2-4:30
Admission (PG) Fri 2:45-5:25-8-10:40 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:40 Mon-Wed 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 Thu 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 The Call (14A) Fri 1-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30 Mon-Wed 3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Thu 12:40-3-5:25-7:50-10:15

SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G) Sat 11
The Croods (G) Fri 1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Sat 11:10-1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Sun 1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:25-3:55-6:45-9:15
The Croods 3D (G) Fri 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Wed 2:25-4:55-7:25-9:55 Thu 12-2:25-4:55-7:25-9:55
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 8-10:45 Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:15-10:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:10-5:40-8:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:45
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:15 Sat 11:20-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:15 Sun 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-10
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Sat 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Mon-Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:10 Wed 7:15-10:10 Thu 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:10 Wed 1:35-4:25
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:55 Mon-Wed 1-4-7:05-10:05 Thu 12:30-3:30-10:05
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:45-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:30

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

Admission (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:35 Wed 5:25-8-10:35 Thu 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Call (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Fri-Sun 2:20-4:45-8-10:40 Mon 4:45-8-10:30 Tue 2:20-4:45-8-10:40 Wed 4:45-8-10:40 Thu 5-8-10:40
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G) Sat 11
The Croods (G) Fri 1:35-4:10-7-9:35 Sat 11:15-1:35-4:10-7-9:35 Sun-Thu 1:35-4:10-7-9:35
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:15
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 1:45 Sat 11:25-1:45 Sun-Wed 1:45
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) Wed 7:15-10 Thu 1:45-4:30-7:15-10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 7:30-10:20 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:20 Wed 8-10:40 Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
The Host (PG) Thu 9:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Wed 2:30-5:10-7:55-10:40 Thu 1:20-4
InAPPropriate Comedy (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:20-5:35-7:50-10:05
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:15 Mon 3:30-6:30-9:15 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:15 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:20
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:20
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Tue 4:05-7:05-10 Wed 4:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Maria Stuarda Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
New World (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:20
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20 Mon 4:15-7:20-10:15 Tue 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20 Wed 7:35-10:30 Thu 1:50-4:40-7:35-10:30 Fri 1:50-4:40-7:35-10:30 Sat 11-1:50-4:40-7:35-10:30 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:35-10:30 Wed-Thu 4-7-10 Wed 1:50-4:40
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-10:15 Fri-Sun 2-5:15-8:30 Mon 5:15-8:30 Tue 2-5:15-8:30 Wed 4:20
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25 Fri-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-10 Mon 3:50-7-10 Tue 12:45-3:50-7-10 Wed-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:40
Royal Opera House: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (STC) Thu 7:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10 Wed 1:15-4:15
Stoker (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3-5:30-8:05-10:35

Clova
5732-176th St., Surrey,

Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-7

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Thu 8:50
The Life of Fish (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-7-9:30
Life of Pi (G) Fri-Thu 4:10
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 6:40
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Thu 2
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-4:20

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

Admission (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:40 Wed 4:15-6:50-9:30 Thu 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Call (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G) Sat 11
The Croods (G) Fri 1:55-4:20-7-9:30 Sat 11:30-1:55-4:20-7-9:30 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:20-7-9:30
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed 7:40-10:10 Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed 1:50-4:40
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:15-7:30
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 8-10:45 Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Thu 10
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:15-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sun-Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:30
Love Story of Singh vs Kaur (PG) Fri 1:15-5:05-9 Sat 2-5:20-9 Sun-Tue 1:15-5:05-9 Wed 1:15-5:05
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:35 Wed 12:30-3:35-10 Thu 12:30-3:35-7-10
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:35-6:55-7:35-10-10:45 Wed 1:15-4:15-6:55-10 Thu 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:35
Pooja Kiven AA (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:45-9:30

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

21 and Over (14A) , Fri 7:25-9:40 , Sat-Sun 1:40-4:35-7:25-9:40 , Mon-Thu 7:25-9:40
The Call (14A) , Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:15
The Croods (G) , Fri-Thu 1-9:05
The Croods 3D (G) , Fri-Thu 4-6:40
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) , , Wed 7:15-9:50 , , Thu 12:50-1:20-3:50-4:20-6:45-7:15-9:20-9:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) , Fri 7:10-9:50 , Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50 , Mon-Tue 7:10-9:50
Identity Thief (14A) , Fri-Wed 12:45-3:45-6:25-9:10 , Thu 6:25-9:10
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) , Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:20-9
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG) , Fri-Thu 4:10-6:50
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) , Fri-Thu 1:10-9:30
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) , Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7-9:45
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) , Fri-Thu 12:40-9:25
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) , Fri-Thu 3:35-6:30
Pooja Kiven AA (STC) , Fri 1:25-4:25-7:15-9:55 , Sat-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:15-9:55 , Mon-Tue 1:25-4:25-7:15-9:55 , Wed-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:10-9:55
Safe Haven (PG) , Fri 6:45-9:20 , Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:20 , Mon-Wed 6:45-9:20
Snitch (PG) , Fri 7:20-10 , Sat-Sun 1:35-4:30-7:20-10 , Mon-Thu 7:20-10
Toonie Matinee - Hotel Transylvania (STC) , Fri 1:20-4:20 , Mon-Thu 1:20-4:20 Toonie Matinee - Parental Guidance (STC) , Fri 1:40-4:35 , Mon-Thu 1:40-4:35 Toonie Matinee - Rise of The Guardians (STC) , Fri 1:35-4:30 , Mon-Thu 1:35-4:30
Toonie Matinee - The Smurfs (STC) , Fri 12:50-3:50 , Mon-Wed 12:50-3:50

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock

The Impossible (14A) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:05 Mon-Thu 7-9:05
Quartet (PG) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

The Croods (G) Fri-Thu 2:20-7:20-9:25
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-7:30-9:30
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Thu 2:10-7:10-9:40
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Thu 2-7-9:35

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

21 and Over (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:20-7-9:30 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-7
Admission (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:40-7:15-9:55
Aliens (STC) Mon 7
The Call (14A) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:05-5:25-7:50-10:25
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (G) Sat 11
The Croods (G) Fri 1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Sat 11:10-1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Sun 1:40-4:10-7-9:30 Mon-Wed 12:40-3:30-7:05-9:40 Thu 1:40-4:10-7-9:30
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Wed 1:10-4:05-7:35-10:10 Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 12 Sat 11-12 Sun 12 Mon-Tue 12:35 Wed-Thu 12:35-3-5:25-7:45
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:35-4:55-7:30 Mon-Tue 3-5:25-7:45
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) Wed 7:15-10:15 Thu 1:25-4:05-7-10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Wed 7-10 Thu 1:55-4:35-7:30-10:15
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG) Wed 7:30-10:30 Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:25 Sat 2:45-5:20-7:55-10:25 Sun 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:25 Mon-Tue 1:25-4:40-7:30-10:10 Wed 1:25-4:40
The Host (PG) Thu 9:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:25-8:05-10:45 Mon-Thu 2-4:45-7:40-10:20
InAPPropriate Comedy (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:45-8:05-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:05-5:20-7:35-9:55
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Mon-Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:25 Wed 12:30-5:30-8-10:25 Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:30-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sun 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:15-4-6:55-9:45
John Dies at the End (STC) Wed 9:30
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:25-10:20
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-7:05-10:05 Mon-Tue 12:30-3:35-7-10 Wed 12:30-3:35-7-7:30-10-10:30 Thu 12:30-1:30-3:35-4:35-7:05-7:30-10-10:30 Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:45 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:35-7:30-10:30 Wed 1:30-4:35
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:10-6:20-9:35 Mon-Wed 3:10-6:20-9:35 Thu 12-3:10-6:20-9:35
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:35-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:25-7:25-10:30
Oz the Great and Powerful: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:35-7-10 Wed 12:30-3:35
Royal Opera House: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (STC) Thu 7:30
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:35 Mon 1:20-4:20-10:05 Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:05 Wed 1:20-4:20
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:30 Mon-Tue 1-4-6:55-10:05 Wed-Thu 1-4-10:05
Snitch (PG) Fri-Sun 10:25 Mon-Thu 10:15

Twilight Drive-In
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley

21 and Over (14A) Fri-Sun 7:45
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG) Thu 10
Jack Reacher (PG) Thu 11:59
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG) Thu 7:45
The Last Exorcism Part II (14A) Fri-Sun 9:30 No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Wed

How Phil Spector Lost that Lovin' Feelin'

HBO movies.
Al Pacino can't remember the first time he met the music producer, but steps into the role of a man who fell from the spotlight

Much to his surprise, Al Pacino learned that once upon a time he met the legendary music producer Phil Spector, whom he now plays in a new HBO film.

He had no memory of it, "but somebody showed me a picture of me and him on the Internet," Pacino laughs. "It was at some event or party, and we're both looking into the camera, two guys who do not want to be photographed. Since he had mostly worked behind the scenes, I didn't know who he was, and he looked like he didn't know who I was."

That was then, whenever that was. Now, spurring after-the-fact speculation, this forgotten encounter serves Pacino as a fitting first step into the character he captures for Phil Spector. (It premieres Sunday night)

Written and directed by David Mamet, this penetrating film explores the preparation for Spector's murder defence.

As the story begins in 2007, he stands accused of having forced a pistol into the mouth of a woman — his by-chance date for the night — and pulling the trigger.

The difficulties of the case seem beyond the wherewithal of Spector's original attorney (played by Jeffrey Tambor in a robust supporting performance), who has brought in hotshot lawyer Linda Kenney Baden (the splendid Helen Mirren). She takes over as lead attorney and, as the film unfolds, joins Spector in a verbal pas de deux that teems with Mamet's shrewd dialogue.

So he's a problem for his lawyers. He says he didn't kill the girl, but who's going to believe him? His lawyers know that, in the mind of the modern-day public, he is not the music wizard who created the girl-group sound in the early 1960s, co-wrote You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' for the Righteous Brothers and produced records for the Ramones and the Beatles. Instead, by 2007, he's generally regarded as a creepy, homicidal has-been who hides out with his dozens of guns and his dozens of outlandish wigs — a pint-sized wacko too big for his britches.

The HBO film acts as an interesting contrast of a man who left the limelight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helen Mirren, left, and Al Pacino star in the HBO film, Phil Spector, which premieres Sunday. PHIL CARUSO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BC's Set for Life

Mark Rodgers – Maple Ridge, BC

Robert & Kimberley Blair – Surrey, BC

Matthew Classen – Pitt Meadows, BC

David Macdonald – Coquitlam, BC

5

6

7

8

9

10

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British songwriter changes course

Tooth & Nail. Mother's death forces Billy Bragg to re-evaluate his music career

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Billy Bragg's spare, politically charged debut EP Life's a Riot with Spy Vs Spy. But the adaptable British singer/songwriter says he's still trying to figure out his place in this peculiar industry.

Two years ago, the death of Bragg's mother gave him particular reason to pause and re-evaluate his music career. He returned after a five-year absence from recording Tuesday with Tooth & Nail, his first album since 2008's Mr. Love & Justice.

The gently melodic, emotionally tender set has been hailed as a return to form for the 55-year-old in such publications as the Guardian and Mojo.

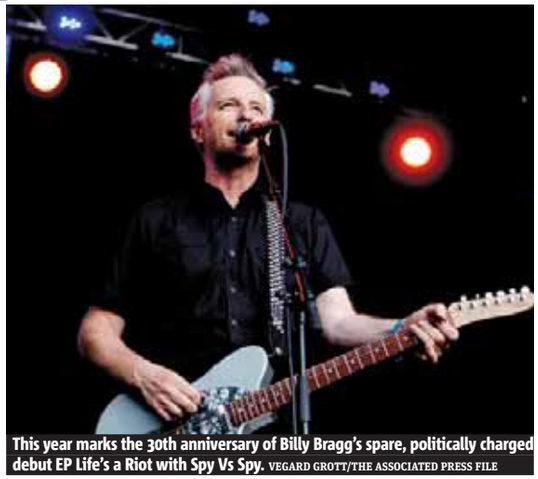
In an interview with The Canadian Press, Bragg admits he'll be closely watching the reaction to the release.

How did your mother's death set you on a path that led to Tooth & Nail?

Well, my mum passed in early 2011, and I think when something like that happens, you can't fail but look around. All of a sudden there's a generational shift and I'm the oldest person in the family now. It makes you think to yourself: "Why are you doing this? Is what I'm doing worthwhile? Or am I just drifting?"

So I started looking at a practical way of discovering whether there is room in the recording industry in 2013 for Billy Bragg. Or whether what I've been doing for the past five years — which is working at a cottage-industry level, putting out CDs and selling them like T-shirts (at shows) — maybe that's my niche now.

So the release of the album is the culmination of that quest — he says, sounding like Frodo Baggins.



This year marks the 30th anniversary of Billy Bragg's spare, politically charged debut EP Life's a Riot with Spy Vs Spy. VEGARD GROTT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Was your mother supportive of your music?

There's a fabulous bit in the (making-of) documentary about (the 1998 album) Mermaid Avenue, where I was sitting on the sofa with her and the director says, "Do you like Billy's records?" And she sort of looks away, and says, "Well, you know, the school did lead us to expect more" (laughs).

She wasn't dismissive of it, but I don't think she wanted me getting on my high horse just because I had been in the newspapers and on the telly. She did choose one of my songs for her own funeral service. So obviously she did like my music after all.

Tooth & Nail is more about love than politics. Why?

The majority of the songs on the record are based in relationships, but that's also partly the nature of the way we hear music now. Now if I write a topical song, I get it uploaded as soon as I can for free download. It's almost like a newscast. As a result of that, when I come to make an album, I find that the predominant songs in my woodshed are songs about deeper things, about emotions. And I don't think that's a bad thing because I would hate for everything to be about politics. I've played with bands like that and they can be a bit hard-going.

When you started this project you wanted to figure out where you stood. Do you have clarity now?

I definitely have a sense of direction again, but what I'm interested to do now is to find out where I fit in the recording industry, because I know where I am in the music industry — people love coming to see me play.

(But) the industry's changing much faster than I can put out records. So when you've worked out where your niche is, the next time you look, the niche isn't even there anymore. I'm not complaining about this, by the way. I'm just being honest.

Rather than being complacent ... we do have to step back and look at it, and try to perhaps tailor what we're doing a little more to where the medium is now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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3 Songs for the weekend

Call it retro revenge. Each of these bands may be more than 30 years old but they're not dead yet.

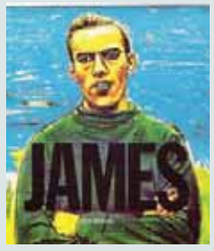
SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Soothe My Soul/Depeche Mode

The studio version of this new single from the upcoming Delta Machine album was streaming online — and then it wasn't.

Metroland/OMD

The classic line-up has a record called English Electric coming April 8. This sounds like it could be in any mid-80s John Hughes movie.



Sit Down/James

A new video of their classic created especially for Comic Relief's Red Nose Night charity. Proof that a brilliant song is brilliant, no matter how old it is.

Mad Men star Jon Hamm is 'a big fan' of JT's suit and tie

Mad Men star Jon Hamm is going mad over Justin Timberlake's suit and tie — the song and the singer's style.

"I'm a big fan of Justin Timberlake," Hamm said in a recent interview. "I think he's a trendsetter, as they say. But he's always been kind of a natty dresser."

The 42-year-old actor, who says he has an "appreciation for fashion," returns as womanizing ad man Don Draper when season six premieres April 7 on AMC.

Seeing Mad Men style infiltrate pop culture — from Taylor Swift's mod minidress on the March cover of Elle magazine to Timberlake's ode to old Hollywood glamour with his latest hit, Suit & Tie, is the ultimate compliment for Hamm.

"It's nice that our show has had that sort of serendipitous resonance with fashion," he said. "I think it's great. I think it's really cool."

Jon Hamm
GETTY IMAGES

As for Timberlake, Hamm believes the pop star is "a very fashion-forward kind of guy," although the Grammy winner is guilty of at least one "fashion don't."

"That one unfortunate picture of him in that denim tuxedo excused," Hamm said with a smile, referring to Timberlake's all-denim ensemble at the 2001 American Music Awards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Twitter

@aplusk
Are prophylactics having an inverse effect on natural selection?

@RebelWilson
Hey shower curtain! Stop groping me! x

@AlbertBrooks
guess the free toasters from the Cyprus banks are now out of the question.

John John Florence

Watch out, John John ... Taylor Swift has her eye on you

Taylor Swift has reportedly set her sights on 20-year-old pro surfer John John Florence, according to Life & Style, though their budding relationship is still mostly on a telecommunications level. "He and Taylor have been text messaging," a source says. "Apparently she contacted him. I don't think they have hung out yet. They've just been chatting. John John doesn't want to ruin things, so he's being careful not to say too much."

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

It's still on: Pattinson reunites with Stewart after filming in Australia

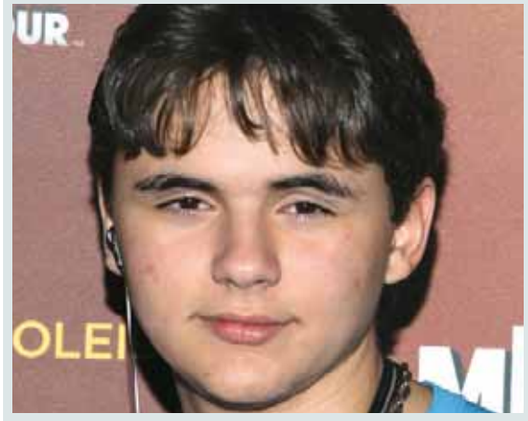
Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson are reunited after his latest stint filming in Australia, and the couple reportedly celebrated by hitting up their favourite local dive bar, L.A.'s Ye Rustic Inn, according to E! News. "They seemed really happy to be with each other. Rob and Kristen were having so much fun together," a source says. "They sat in the back of the bar in a booth and were laughing. At one point, they were standing at the bar and were just being normal, as any boyfriend and girlfriend would be with each other. They were touchy-feely. She was holding on to his jacket and had her hand on his back. They were just being cute."

Is that Jon Hamm, or are you just happy to see me?

Jon Hamm's physical attributes are causing quite a stir on the Mad Men set, according to the New York Daily News. "This season takes place in the 1960s, where the pants are very tight and leave little to the imagination," a source tells the newspaper. "Jon's impressive anatomy is so distracting that they politely insisted on underwear." Hamm's rep is not amused. "It is ridiculous and not really funny at all," the rep said. "I'd appreciate you taking the high road and not resorting to something childish like this that's been blogged about 1,000 times."

Jon Hamm

The Word



Is Feldman moonlighting as a sperm donor?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Earlier this week, I wrote about the Jackson family's wrongful death lawsuit against AEG Live for $40 billion and how the entertainment giant wants to get the paternity of Jackson's children entered into court proceedings.

The Jackson family are fighting this, calling into question who actually is the father of Blanket, Paris and Prince Jackson.

And upon further reflection (and Googling), I am pretty confident that the father of Prince Jackson is none other than Corey Feldman. These pictures don't lie, friends. Can someone call Maury Povich?

AU student Kathleen in Edmonton, AB

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Liquid Assets

Wine, fresh fare unite

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Depending on where you are in this great country, the weather may look more like a winter wonderland than spring. Somebody forgot to tell Mother Nature that we had a change of season this week.

While I hate pigeonholing certain wines to particular seasons, fresh, floral whites really do come across like spring in a glass. It doesn't hurt that they pair well with the bright, fresh food fare that tends to get served this time of year.

Wines made with the riesling, gewürztraminer and viognier grapes lead the charge when it comes to whites with plush fruit flavours and aromatics.

Viognier in particular is one of my favourites. Originating in France, it's grown worldwide, always packing its classic tropical depth and subtle pepperiness that pair so well with lighter meats (like pork) and fruit-accented sauces (especially those with a citrusy influence).

Cono Sur's 2011 Bicicleta Viognier ($9.95 - $11.99) from Chile is a budget friendly version with soft lime and lemon accents and just a wink to the grape's spicy persona.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

A fine balance of cherries and coffee

Cherry-Topped Coffee-Roasted Pork Tenderloin. This combination of fresh flavours is ideal to serve during spring

This recipe makes 36 appetizers. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coffee is becoming a favourite ingredient when roasting meat.

It's an effortless way to add gobs of flavour to your meal. All you do is add whole coffee beans to whatever spice blend you are using as a wet or dry rub, then grind it to a powder and apply to the meat. The coffee provides deep, rich flavours with a hint of acid.

The seasonings can be applied to the meat right before roasting. But if you have time, the flavour is even better if you rub the spices on the meat, then refrigerate it for several hours.

If you're looking for a simple and speedy dinner, make the roasted pork tenderloin in this recipe and serve it as is with a side salad. For something party-worthy, slice it, slap it on rounds of baguette, then top with a dollop of cherry jam.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp coffee beans
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp fennel seeds
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp whole peppercorns
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 3 lbs pork tenderloins
- 1 baguette, thinly sliced into 36 rounds
- Olive oil
- 10-oz jar cherry jam

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and coat with cooking spray.

2. In a spice grinder, combine the coffee beans, garlic powder, fennel seeds, paprika, peppercorns and salt. Grind until the beans and seeds are finely ground. Rub the spice-coffee blend evenly and liberally over the tenderloins. Set the tenderloins on the prepared baking sheet, then roast for 20 minutes, or until they reach 145 F at the centre. Remove from the oven and let rest for 5 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, brush the baguette slices with olive oil, then arrange on a baking sheet and toast for 2 minutes, or until just barely browned.

4. When the pork is ready, cut it into thin slices. To serve, place one slice of pork on each piece of baguette, then top with a small dollop of jam.

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Julian Brass, founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Just opened: Cactus Club Coal Harbour

With seating for 500, the new flagship location of Cactus Club has opened its doors to the public at 1085 Canada Place. Situated at Vancouver's iconic Jack Poole Plaza across from the Olympic Cauldron, the restaurant boasts incredible 360-degree views, a wraparound patio with seating for 200, original artworks, stunning layout and a menu designed by Rob Feenie himself. Visit cactusclubcafe.com for details.

Spring shopping: Portobello West

Whether you're looking to freshen up your look, home or office space, be sure to head over to the Spring Market taking place this weekend at the Creekside Community Centre, courtesy of Portobello West. A $2 ticket will gain you entry to the eclectic mix of local merchants and their respective ware. Score unique accessories, homemade artisanal items, baked goods and designer pieces perfect for the upcoming season. Visit portobellowest.com for more info.

Reopening: Celebrities Night Club

Since first opening its doors to the public back in 1908, this multi-floored space has consistently been a landmark and mecca for progressive entertainment in Vancouver. Having recently undergone extensive top to bottom renovations, this weekend marks a much-anticipated Grand Opening celebration. Boogie your way down to see for yourself just why this space offers serious heart and soul to Vancouver's entertainment scene at Davie Street and Burrard.

Cheeky fun: 2nd Annual Tongue N' Cheek Show

Tonight, the Rio Theatre at 1660 East Broadway is set to host the 2nd Annual Tongue N' Cheek Show featuring a mash-up of Sweet Soul Burlesque and Giants of Spoken Word for one memorable night of devious fun. Renowned spoken word artists will perform their best cheeky poetry while respective burlesque artists interpret. This night will meld heart, soul and body like no other and shouldn't be missed. Tickets are $16 in advance or $20 at the door. Visit riotheatretickets.ca.

Feed the People celebrates its first anniversary

Set to celebrate its first anniversary of do-gooding, Vancouver-based start-up Feed the People will again be hosting a volunteer gathering to provide 1,000 sandwiches for those in need. On Sunday at 1 p.m., head down to the Vancouver Urban Winery at 55 Dunlevy Ave. to lend a hand, or stop by with your donation toward the cost of food (canned, non-perishable items are accepted).

Last chance: Vancouver Fashion Week

This weekend marks the grand fashion finale (shows take place at the Chinese Cultural Centre). Grab tickets to attend Friday's Established Designers Show or head to the International Designers Show on Saturday and Sunday. Review the full lineup of shows, participating designers and more at vanfashionweek.com.

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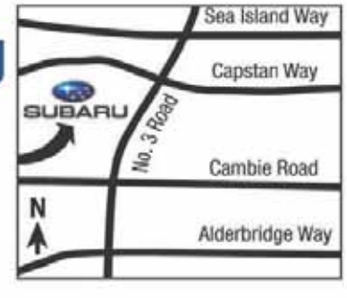

MLS

Whitecaps look to end Houston Dynamo's 26-game home streak

The Vancouver Whitecaps have a chance to do something no other Major League Soccer club has done since June 2011.

Saturday, the Whitecaps face the Houston Dynamo on the road at BBVA Compass Stadium. The Dynamo have not lost an MLS home game in the last 26 games, which is only three off the all-time record of 29 held by Real Salt Lake.

Go back even further and it's been in 32 games — that includes all competitions — where the Dynamo have come away with either a win or a draw on their home turf.

So, there's an opportunity not only for the Whitecaps to improve their early season record to 3-0-0, but to end an impressive run from the reigning back-to-back MLS Eastern Conference champions.

The Whitecaps were saying all the right things after Thursday's training session at UBC.

"We're not too worried about that. I think that's more other people are talking about that, making a big deal of it," said Whitecaps head coach Martin Rennie.

"But that puts more pressure on Houston more than us, I think. They've obviously done very well at home for a long time and it's obviously a hard place to go and win and they're a good team, but for us, we think we're a good team as well and we have to prove that."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Daniel and Henrik Sedin scrum with Boyd Gordon and Martin Hanzal of the Phoenix Coyotes after Alexander Edler was penalized with a five-minute major during the second period of their game in Glendale, Ariz. The Canucks won 2-1 against a Coyotes team that has lost five straight. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Canucks grind out win versus Coyotes

NHL. Schneider looks sharp in tight game as Canucks earn fourth victory in past six

Jordan Schroeder scored midway through the third period, Cory Schneider stopped 33 shots and the Vancouver Canucks ground out a 2-1 win over the Phoenix Coyotes on Thursday night.

Schneider allowed a tying goal to Antoine Vermette in the third period, but Schroeder put the Canucks back up by punching in a rebound after a redirect by Jannik Hansen trickled past Coyotes goalie Jason LaBarbera.

Christopher Tanev also scored and Schneider made some big saves down the stretch, including on a semi-breakaway by Martin Hanzal, to secure Vancouver's fourth win in six games.

LaBarbera stopped 14 shots in the third period after replacing injured starter Mike Smith for the Coyotes, who have lost five straight.

The Canucks have been hit hard by injuries, losing centre Manny Malhotra for the season to an eye injury and centre Ryan Kesler since the start of March with shoulder and wrist injuries.

The list has gotten longer recently.

Left wing Chris Higgins was out against the Coyotes after tweaking his back, and wingers Steve Pinizzotto (illness) and Zack Kassian (back) didn't make the trip to the desert. Left wing David Booth also missed his third straight game with a leg injury, leaving Vancouver with 11 healthy forwards.

Vancouver got the first goal when Tanev converted a wrister from the slot in the first period after taking a pass from Mason Raymond and waiting for two colliding players in front to clear.

Phoenix generated some opportunities early against Vancouver, but had trouble getting shots off with the Canucks doing a good job of getting their sticks in the way.

Phoenix managed to tie it in the third when Vermette punched in a rebound off a hard shot by Radim Vrbata that caromed off Schneider and the crossbar. But that was it for the Coyotes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Thursday

Canucks	Coyotes
2	1

4 SPORTS

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Canadians lead Zags to win

March Madness.
Gonzaga struggles early, but pulls out win in final minutes

Still don't think Gonzaga deserved that No. 1 seed? There might be a few more doubters now.

Entering the NCAA tournament top-seeded and top-ranked for the first time in program history, the Zags nearly made another kind of history Thursday — coming only a few minutes and a rimmed-out shot or two from becoming the first 1 to lose to a 16.

Gonzaga prevailed 64-58 over Southern University in a game that wasn't safely in hand until the final buzzer sounded. No. 1 seeds improved to 113-0 since the field was expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

Kelly Olynyk of Kamloops led the Zags (32-2) with 21 points, though it was a pair of three-pointers — one by Gary Bell Jr., the next by Kevin Pangos — that gave Gonzaga its small cushion after Southern (23-10) tied things 56-56 with 3:45 left.

Bell's three made it 59-56 after Derick Beltran hit a 14-footer on the baseline to close out a 15-4 Southern run and tie the game.

Beltran hit two free throws to cut the deficit to one, but Gonzaga responded by working the ball to Pangos, of Newmarket, Ont., whose three made it a four-point game.

Pangos (16 points) made two free throws with 14.3 seconds left to seal the deal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kamloops native Kelly Olynyk of the Gonzaga Bulldogs pushes past Javan Mitchell of the Southern University Jaguars during a 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament game in Salt Lake City. Gonzaga won 64-58. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

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metro

Women's World Cup.
BC Place to host 2015 championship match

BC Place will be the site of the first-ever World Cup soccer final played on artificial turf.

The 55,000-seat venue was named as the site of the championship game for the 2015 Women's World Cup on Thursday, with organizers adding that all other senior men's and women's finals have been played on grass.

"There's a lot of factors that go into (choosing the final venue)," national organizing committee member Steve Reed said following a news conference to announce the selection.

"The final match, certainly, we wanted to maximize the number of participants, the number of people that are in the seats. BC Place obviously has that capacity."

Canadian organizers and FIFA, the sport's world governing body, made the decision on the final venue jointly. Reed is hoping to build on the success of the sold-out 2012 CONCACAF women's Olympic qualifying tournament that was held in Vancouver.

He said the stadium's new retractable roof, which was installed after the 2010 Winter Olympics, upgraded suites and seats also appealed to FIFA.

All games during the CONCACAF tournament in January 2012 were sold out, with only the lower-bowl open. During the World Cup, all seats will be available.

"We've got good facilities across Canada," said Reed. "But, I think, at the end of the day, FIFA looked at BC Place and determined that was obviously the best (place) for them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I think, at the end of the day, FIFA looked at BC Place and determined that was obviously the best (place) for them."

Steve Reed, organizing committee member, on the decision to host the championship game in Vancouver

NHL

Brodeur doesn't shoot, still scores

New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur was credited with his third NHL goal when Carolina's Jordan Staal accidently put the puck in his own empty net.

With a delayed penalty call pending against New Jersey's Marek Zidlicky, Staal passed the puck back to the point from behind the net but missed intended target Tim Gleason and the puck bounced off the boards near centre ice and eventually into the net.

Brodeur got credit for the goal because he was the last Devils player to touch the puck. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Leafs' Lupul gets two-game ban

The NHL suspended Toronto Maple Leafs forward Joffrey Lupul for two games Thursday following his hit to the head of Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman.

The incident occurred during Toronto's 4-2 win on Wednesday night.

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may not think of yourself as a peacemaker but you will certainly be the one who calms things down today. Maybe it's because you believe in justice, but you will do your utmost to negotiate a truce.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you are convinced that what you are doing is right then what others think or say about it is irrelevant. Since when have you been the type to ask other people for permission?

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
No one lives in isolation and what takes place over the next few hours will confirm that in a rather nice way. Just when you thought you were struggling all on your own, you discover you have genuine friends.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Someone in authority will look favourably on you today and you must take advantage of it. If you can, work your way into a position where you can showcase your many talents. That "someone in authority" could soon be you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Everything looks right with your world at the moment and with Venus moving in your favour today, whatever you do will work out just fine. That is if you can be bothered to make an effort.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you have been proved right, you may find it hard to be modest today but try not to be too self-congratulatory. If you boast too loudly, someone may try to burst your bubble.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you maintain a positive attitude over the next 24 hours, there is a real chance that at least one of your fantasies will become a reality. Let's hope your heart is in good condition. The shock could be too much!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some of your friends may not have been supportive of late but that does not mean they are turning against you. On the contrary, they are still very much on your side, it's just that they've been too busy to help.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
With Venus joining the Sun in your fellow Fire sign of Aries today, you are flavour of the month. In your life and at work be the best you can be, and the world will love you for it.

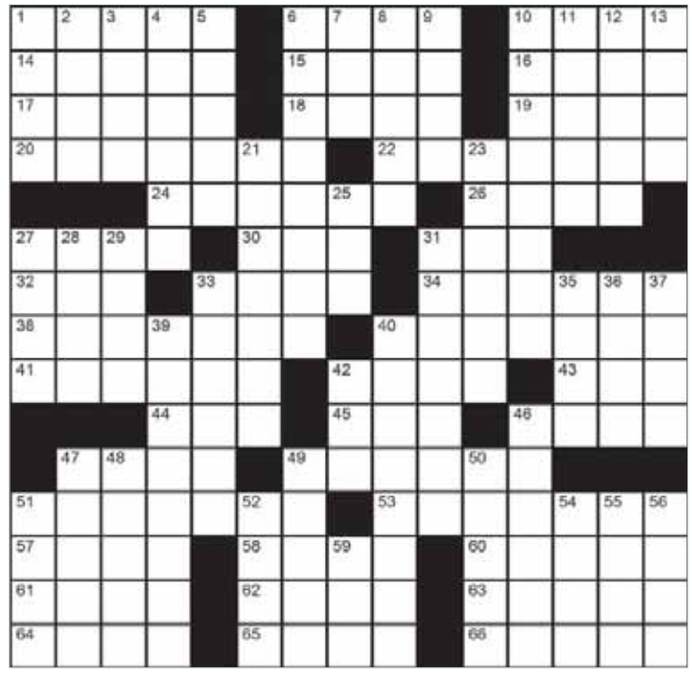
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't be afraid to tell others what you think today, but wrap it up in a thick layer of sugar coating. They will appreciatet that you avoided hurting their feelings.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
According to the planets, you are reluctant to get too involved in a situation that you fear could be emotionally traumatic. You are right to keep your distance but don't cut yourself off altogether. Be available if a crisis occurs.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Venus, planet of emotional and material values, leaves your birth sign today, but that is not a cause for despair. In fact, it could have very good results financially. Replenish your bank account. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

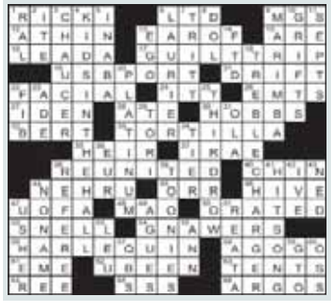
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Straighten
6. __ of St. Lawrence
10. Berth
14. Inner circle
15. Bob Dylan's "The Times They __-_ Changin'"
16. Proactiv target
17. Sag
18. Safari sound!
19. 'Twilight' movies actress Nikki
20. Bow River city
22. Hedley singer, Jacob __
24. With pleasure
26. Grandmothers, to some
27. Small horse
30. Icky-__ (Yucky)
31. Distant
32. Philippines volcano, Mount __
33. Hearty meal
34. Antarctica volcano, Mount __
38. Pamela Wallin or Mike Duffy
40. "The __ Falcon" (1941)
41. Sports star, often
42. Taverns
43. Can
44. Home base, for short
45. London, __.
46. Music duo, __ Punk
47. Casually trendy student, nicknamed
49. Kevin of CBC's "Dragons' Den"
51. Canadian classic show, "Mr. __"
53. Toronto-born singer/songwriter Ms. Myles
57. Brewer's kiln
58. Book genre, for short
60. Singer, Frankie __
61. Comical dog
62. "Take a Chance __" by ABBA: 2 wds.
63. Be a ham on stage
64. Horse's hair
65. Burn slightly in cooking
66. "It's __ __ Never" by Elvis Presley

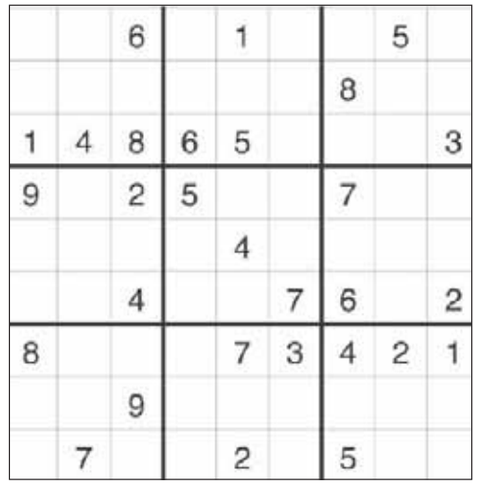
Down
1. "Back in Black" rockers
2. "__ Croft: Tomb Raider" (2001)
3. "American __"
4. Dazed
5. Mountainous land
6. Canada's Ambassador to the United States: 2 wds.
7. Prefix that means 'Tail'
8. Band from Lakefield, Ontario
9. Gambling card game
10. Justin Trudeau's mom
11. Arctic, for one
12. Niners - Eighters = __
13. Mr. Foxx of '70s TV
21. Toronto's basketball team
23. "Crazy" by __ Barkley
25. Down
27. Go through
28. International oil gr.
29. Faux pas
31. "A Good Heart" by __ Sharkey
33. Prepares tea
35. Test version, as per software
36. '60s song: "Catch __ __ You Can"
37. E-Mailed
39. One getting the handcuffs
40. Nelly Furtado song
42. "The Fresh Prince of __-Air"
46. Go-getter
47. "The Devil Wears __" (2006)
48. Pine tree stuff
49. Offer one's point of view
50. Character in Haida mythology
51. Gloom's partner
52. ET-piloted crafts
54. Sugar substitute, Sweet'_ __
55. Opera voice
56. Yesterday: French
59. Nashville music trophy, for short

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	5	6	4	8	3	7	2
6	4	3	2	7	1	5	9	8
7	8	2	5	9	3	6	1	4
8	2	1	7	3	9	4	5	6
5	6	9	4	8	2	1	3	7
3	7	4	1	5	6	8	2	9
2	1	7	8	6	5	9	4	3
9	5	8	3	2	4	7	6	1
4	3	6	9	1	7	2	8	5

Today
7°/1°
Partly cloudy
Saturday
7°/1°
Rain or snow showers
40%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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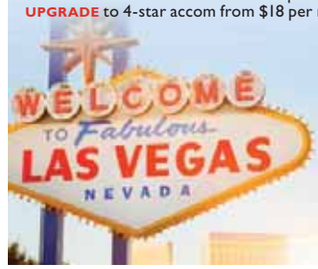
New York	from $639
Cancun	from $680
Costa Rica	from $779
Hong Kong	from $1099
Sydney	from $1348

USA

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
from **$354**
INCLUDES accom on the Strip.
UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $18 per night.



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INCLUDES Lower Manhattan accom.

Kona Air + 7 Nights from $930
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Air + 2 Nights from $799
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ADD tree trek canopy walk from $50.

Seattle 2 Nights from $179pp
INCLUDES art-deco accom in the University District. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $23 per night. **ADD** Space Needle admission from $25.

Sun Peaks
3 Nights + 2-Day Lift Pass from $309pp
INCLUDES ski-in/ski-out accom and 2-day lift ticket to ski Sun Peaks.

Exotic Vacations

Beijing & Shanghai
Air + 8 Nights 4-Star
from **$1489**
INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights central Beijing accom near The Forbidden City and 4 nights central Shanghai accom near The Bund.

Fiji Air + 7 Nights from $1729
INCLUDES accom in a Coral Coast beachfront resort. **ADD** Whale's Tale full day cruise from $142.

Bali Air + 10 Nights 4-Star from $1779
INCLUDES hilltop accom overlooking the Bay of Tanjung Benoa.

Europe

Iceland Air + 7 Nights
from **$1414**
INCLUDES accom near the main shopping street. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $25 per night. **ADD** geothermal and lake tour from $66.

London Air + 6 Nights from $1394
INCLUDES central accom near Russell Square. **ADD** Red Rover Thames hop-on hop-off tour from $15.

Paris & Amsterdam
Air + 8 Nights from $1739
INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights central Paris accom and 4 nights central Amsterdam accom.

Madrid Air + 7 Nights from $2034
INCLUDES accom near Plaza Mayor. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $10 per night. **ADD** half-day Toledo tour from $68.

France Air + 5 Nights 4-Star + 6-Day Car from $2379
INCLUDES roundtrip Paris airfare, accom in a 19th century Castle in the heart of the Chantilly Forest and 6-day car rental with unlimited mileage. **BONUS** daily breakfast included.

Greece Air + 4 Nights + 8-Day Tour from $2939
INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights central Athens accom and 8-day sailing tour.

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